

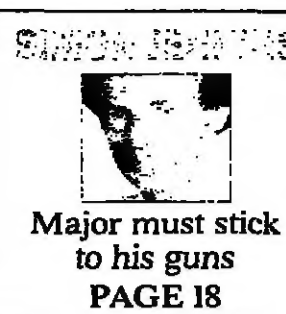


INTO THE ROUGH

Sex, golf and Kevin Costner don't mix  
Simon Barnes  
PAGE 45



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TOKEN 3, PAGE 35



NIGELLA LAWSON

When health gives too much food for thought  
PAGE 17



'Never been more important to win'

Back Major, Thatcher tells Tories

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

BARONESS THATCHER threw her backing behind the Prime Minister at his time of greatest need last night, declaring that it had never been more important to return the Conservatives to office and John Major to Downing Street.

She delighted Tories in Bournemouth by putting aside past differences to urge the party to unite and "get cracking" to beat Labour.

With the pre-election conference opening against the background of disputes over Europe and the suez controversy, Lady Thatcher's message was just what party managers had been praying for. They carefully staged both her arrival on the conference platform — where Mr Major kissed his predecessor — and a joint appearance at a reception for London Tories last night.

There, in a wildly-cheered four-minute speech, she said that the Tories alone had the principles, policies, experience and resolve to take Britain into the next millennium. "I have fought more elections than I care to recall. But it has never been more important to see the Conservatives returned to office — and you, John, to Downing Street."

She was responding to the Prime Minister who had hailed her as the architect of the Tory revolution. "When you became Prime Minister in 1979 the country was in a very poor state indeed," he said. "In the 11 years that followed you changed the direction, nature, prosperity and future of the UK. We have tried in the last



Thatcher: public display of support

five years to carry on that direction, carry on the policies of devolving power down to the individual and the family."

Next year's election, like 1979, would be a watershed because a fifth electoral defeat for Labour would "kill socialism for good in this country".

That, he said, was a prize worth uniting for. The public display of harmony came after a period of frosty relations during which Lady Thatcher had attacked One Nation Tories — among whom Mr Major counts himself — and given money to the Euro-sceptic European Foundation. But yesterday she told her successor: "You and I, John, have put our principles, our Conservative principles, into practice year after year, not just when they were popular but when they were unpopular. We did it because we knew they were right."

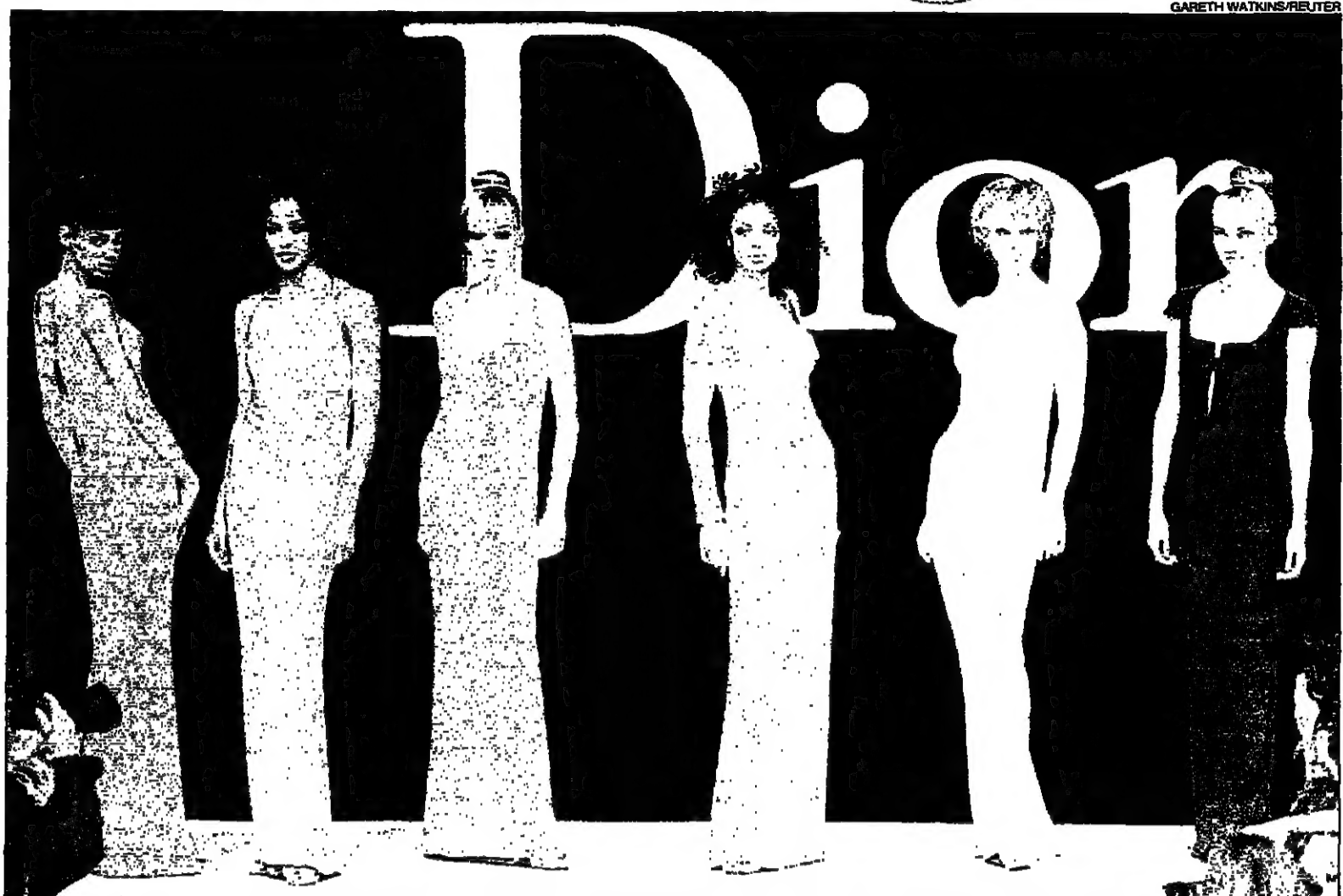
The endorsement was a big boost for Tory strategists who regard Mr Major's "Honest

John" image as a key election weapon, and the leadership repositioned in style with the party chairman Brian Mawhinney saying Tony Blair had no right to be compared to Lady Thatcher. "Mr Blair, you are no Margaret Thatcher," he declared. Dr Mawhinney also lavished praise upon Mr Major, calling him the most honest man in British politics.

Lady Thatcher later told activists that the nation was in safe hands with Mr Major. Labour were pretending to be Conservatives, but it was only an act, she said. "If you want Conservative policies, the best way of getting them is clear: it is to re-elect a Conservative government. Why settle for second best?" If Labour gained power the country would take a decade to recover. "We know what to expect: socialism, red in tooth and claw. And in that case all the efforts we have made to restore Britain's prosperity and reputation would be thrown away."

The show of unity came as ministers announced policy initiatives designed to lift the sights of the party to the election. Michael Howard led the way with a series of populist anti-crime measures including the "naming and shaming" of juvenile delinquents and action against stalkers, child abuse and drug pushers. Stalkers would face up to five years in jail and the courts would be given powers to ban criminals from driving.

Conference reports, pages 8-9  
Simon Jenkins, page 18  
Leading article, page 19



A last ready-to-wear show for Dior in Paris yesterday by the Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré — Briton John Galiano will be taking over

Dior and Givenchy have designs on Britons

FROM GRACE BRADBERRY IN PARIS

JOHN GALLIANO, the son of a South London plumber, is to become head of Christian Dior, France's grandest fashion house while Alexander McQueen, an east London taxi driver's son, has been offered Givenchy.

If McQueen, 27, takes up the offer it would leave two of the biggest French couture houses in the hands of British designers. Galiano, 36, became the first Briton to head a French couture house this century when he took over at Givenchy last year. Until then the last Briton to head a French house was Charles Worth in 1857.

British fashion designers are in demand because of their talent for the spectacular. Fashion, particularly couture, is increasingly seen as a loss-leader to boost sales of luxury spin-offs. Dior perfume sales were £704



In demand: McQueen, left, wanted by Givenchy, and Galiano



the dreams of your life in fashion become reality." But yesterday he was answering the telephone at his Hoxton studio in East London with a gruff "no comment". He has until today to make up his mind.

Galiano was paid £200,000 for each of the four collections he produced for Givenchy with £1 million to spend on each; and few can believe that McQueen, will not find a way to follow him. He has already made a name for himself as a startling innovator, and the creator of "bumster" trousers, cut revealingly low at the back.

Yesterday, some French women wept as Gianfranco Ferré, the outgoing Dior designer, took his last walk down the catwalk in the Louvre, Paris. For those who watched, it was possible to detect the unmistakable influence of his successor — John Galiano.

Milan collections, page 16

Familiarity breeds Tory contentment

AS at the Vatican, where ambitious cardinals crowd the corridors around an ailing Pope, so at Bournemouth do aspirants for the leader's crown linger by the bedside of a sick party, mouthing concern for the Premier's political health.

The most honest bulletin we could issue from Bournemouth yesterday was that the patient's condition was grave, but stable. Bewildered Tories the geek-quotient increases every year and this is the only party where you see conference-goers attending with their mothers) met mixed signals on their first day.

They were confronted by a science fiction stage set: Eurovision Song Contest meets Star Trek. On to blank

CONFERENCE SKETCH

By Matthew Parris

futuristic screens, video projections remind us what the debate is about for Farnham we had combine-harvesters, ladybirds, par-baked buns, and a plum.

Platform parties float in space, safe within two life-boat-like vessels. Between the boats a lonely speaker thrashes about like a swimmer in trouble. Bald heads peer over the boats' sides in concern. We half expect the occupants to start throwing each other overboard, or eating the cabin-boy.

Into one of these boats the Baroness Thatcher bustled before noon. Her familiar royal blue outfit and little partridge-like steps were reassuring. We held our breath, and — yes! — she kissed John and Norma Major. And sat next to William Hague, the Welsh Secretary. Could this be an omen?

Mr Hague gave the day's best speech. With conviction and fluency the young prodigy tore into devolution plans. Lady Thatcher gazing adoringly on, Hague's well-paced Yorkshire grind ("millions of uzz") verges on the robotic and comes oddly from a chap resembling a Cow & Gate baby competition winner — Continued on page 2, col 1



Princess video was a hoax

Video pictures apparently showing Diana, Princess of Wales cavorting with James Hewitt were revealed as a hoax last night.

The Sun, which published stills from the films on Tuesday, admitted that it had been fooled "by cunning fraudsters" in "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade". Page 3

Nobel prize for Cambridge man

A Cambridge professor of political economy has won the Nobel prize for his taxation theories. James Mirrlees, 60, believes that higher tax rates do not diminish people's motivation to work and that British middle-income earners could reasonably pay more. He shares the £750,000 prize with William Vickrey, a Canadian economist. Pages 25, 26

£650,000 schoolboy funded by council

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

AN inner London council is paying £12,500 a week to keep open a boarding school with 38 staff for just one pupil.

Lambeth Council said it was forced to foot the bill, equivalent to £650,000 a year, after a parent whose son has since left the school won a High Court review to keep it open against its wishes.

The 17-year-old pupil comes from another south London borough, Southwark, which has refused to pay for the boy. He boards at the school while studying at a nearby college.

Lambeth inherited Enborne Lodge Special School near Newbury, Berkshire, which caters for up to 40 bright boys with behavioural problems, from the Inner London Education Authority when it was disbanded in 1990.

Lambeth planned to close it last term as part of a general policy to educate children with special needs in mainstream schools. However, in a judicial review brought by Beverly Nicholson, a parent governor, in the name of her son, Aaron, the High Court ruled that Lambeth had not followed guidelines on consultation in the 1993 Education Act.

Aaron decided to leave but one child insisted on remaining at the 18-acre site this term. Lambeth must continue to pay for the head, eight teachers, six care staff and 23 other employees, at a cost per week equivalent to the £12,000 annual fees for keeping a pupil at

Eton, while it runs another three-month consultation on closure.

The council spends an average of £3,000 a year per pupil educating other children in the borough. Lambeth, which has no overall political control, said it had suffered a breakdown in communications with the school this term.

Shelagh Webb, Lambeth's Labour spokeswoman on education, said: "I know this sounds horrendous but we are trying to come to rational agreements with the teaching staff and unions which will allow us to have the school closed. We cannot simply close the school because we would end up with another court case."

She added: "Our education department has done everything it can to contact the school because it is very concerned about this. But it has been impossible to get in contact because the school does not respond."

However Tony Freke, the chairman of governors, denied the school was avoiding contact with Lambeth. There was only one pupil left because it had found places for everyone else.

Ulster on brink of the abyss

By Nicholas Watt  
CHIEF IRELAND  
CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Ireland was on the brink of a return to all-out terrorist violence last night.

Loyalist paramilitaries held emergency talks about whether to resume their campaign of violence after the IRA admitted responsibility last night for Monday's double bomb attack on the army headquarters at Lisburn, Co Antrim. Government ministers pleaded with the loyalists to maintain their ceasefire.

The IRA claim, made in a telephone message to the Dublin newsroom of RTE, the Irish broadcasting network, by a caller using a recognised code word, will put pressure on the loyalists to return to violence.

David Irvine, main spokesman of the Progressive Unionist Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, also pleaded with the paramilitaries not to resume their campaign.

David Adams, of the loyalist Ulster Democratic Party, which speaks for the UDA and UFF, said, however, that the bombing was the most deliberate act yet by republicans to provoke loyalists. "These people are putting us in an impossible position," he said. "They are trying to draw us into conflict."

Bombs inquiry, page 2

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## Blair and Ashdown urge full inquiry on Hamilton

By Valerie Elliott  
Whitehall Editor

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown joined forces last night in urging the Prime Minister to set up a judicial inquiry into the cash-for-questions affair.

The Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders insisted that they had no confidence in Sir Gordon Downey's inquiry because he lacked any formal powers to summon witnesses or call for papers. They called for a fresh body to be set up under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921, a mechanism which they said had been traditionally used when there were serious allegations of corruption or misconduct in public life.

Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown made clear that they had every confidence in Sir Gordon's integrity and competence, but that public confidence would not be restored unless a senior judge was appointed to head a formal public inquiry. The pact between the two leaders is unusual: Labour and the Liberal Democrats combined forces over the Scott inquiry but Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown were not involved.

A letter sent to John Major yesterday said that an alleged memo from David Willets, now the Paymaster-General but then a Government Whip, suggested that an attempt was made in 1994 to undermine the investigation by MPs into allegations against Neil Hamilton. They claim that it would now be wrong for Sir Gordon to investigate a complaint of political interference. "If such interference did take place, it is not narrowly a matter of members' interests, or the financial propriety of an individual MP's conduct. It is a constitutional question outside Sir Gordon's remit."

Downing Street sources said that Mr Major had made his views clear about the Hamilton affair and he believed that a formal tribunal would take too long. Mr Willets said yesterday that "every single piece of paper relevant to the inquiry" would be put before Sir Gordon. He said that Mr Major had promised complete co-operation.

Army seeks answers to security breach as soldier lies gravely ill

## Investigators study videos to identify Lisburn bomb vehicles

By Michael Evans and Audrey Magee

ARMY investigators examining the grave breach of security at Thiepval barracks in Lisburn are hopeful that hours of video film will establish which vehicles were used in the terrorist bomb attack on Monday. The two vehicles involved in the attack were destroyed and so far the police have been unable to identify their make or the registration numbers.

Lieutenant-General Sir Rupert Smith, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Northern Ireland, has taken personal charge of the army inquiry into the security breach, while the police carry out the criminal investigation into the terrorist attack.

One of the theories being examined yesterday was that the terrorists may have used security passes belonging to one of the building firms which are currently employed on the 600-acre site. Another scenario was that the terrorists acquired passes belonging to legitimate visitors to the barracks.

The possibility remains that the armed guards had simply failed to enforce the proper security procedures and had waved the terrorists through without checking their passes. If this proves to have been the case, it seems likely that the vehicles must have been familiar to those manning the barriers, indicating that they may have been driven to the barracks on previous occasions.

One element that is clear is that the soldiers on guard duty had not been aware of any-

thing suspicious, otherwise the Army's ultimate security measure at the entrance to the barracks would have been brought into play. At the push of a button crash-proof electronic gates can be slid across the road at each of the two security barriers.

Security was stepped up across the province and Irish troops were back in force on the border in a bid to protect the Republic against possible Loyalist retaliation for the Lisburn attack. Police in flak-jackets returned to Belfast city centre to man entry points long ago abandoned.

A soldier in his 30s or 40s, the most seriously injured of the blast victims and the last to be identified, was in a critical condition in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital last night. With more than 50 per cent burns, he also has head injuries and wounds to his left arm, which may have to be amputated. Three other people, two men and a woman, 30, are being treated in the hospital. They are all described as being in a serious but stable condition with shrapnel wounds. The woman, an army employee in her 30s, also has head injuries and burns and one of the men has a broken thigh. Twelve injured soldiers were also still being treated in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast.

Consultant surgeon Mr Laurence Roche said their injuries suggested they were all within 10-20 metres of the explosions.

Leading article, page 19



Aftermath: firemen among devastation inside Thiepval barracks yesterday

## Familiarity breeds contentment at Tory conference

Continued from page 1

invader, our poor flag stretched between. The repellent spectacle cheered wildly.

But then no conference speech succeeds, these days, without the gimcrack. Videos, postcards from old ladies in Liverpool, near-sobbing references to deaths in the family or among friends, politicians piggy-backing on the emotional aftermath of national tragedy...

It is not enough to inform: we must be whammed. Stephen Dorrell's whammy was to

replace his speech with a marathon question and answer session. People could ask anything they liked. The ostentatiously competent Health Secretary coped well, so the session was without interest. Nobody asked the real questions: "Why don't you get a sun tan, you whey-faced bap?" "Why do you scowl like a ghoul and shout all the time?" and "Reincarnated, which animal would you choose?"

Still, Dorrell's gimmick succeeded, like Forsyth's flag. Soon will come the ultimate conference speech. A host of hologram angels flock from the ceiling, dry-ice puffs from the platform, lasers scissor, video-images dance around the walls and, to deafening disco music, politicians rollerskate around the conference floor, miming to quadrophonic repeats of a killer-sound bite.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, did none of these. Instead he just explained doggedly how difficult it all was. Thus, Hogg missed the point. Some of us love him the better for it.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### One third of children aged 16 are on drugs

A third of 15 and 16-year-olds in Britain are using drugs, according to the first continent-wide survey by the European Union on abuse by schoolchildren.

In Spain the figure is 20 per cent, 15.3 per cent in France and 5.8 per cent in Sweden. Drug problems among teenagers are rising in Britain, Ireland, Holland, Finland and Greece, the survey says. The most popular drug by far is cannabis, with 30 per cent of British mid-teenagers saying they use it. LSD was used by 12 per cent. Only a tiny fraction have experienced the hardest drugs. Less than 1 per cent in Britain have used heroin.

#### Princess Royal visits Sarajevo

The Princess Royal flew to Sarajevo yesterday to visit British peacekeeping troops and to pay a courtesy call to the new Bosnian presidency. She was expected to meet the Croat and Muslim members of the three-man presidency, but not the Serb representative. She was due to go to Banja Luka, where the bulk of the British force is based.

#### Judgment reserved in 'blight' case

The High Court has reserved judgment on the case brought by a couple whose £450,000 home was allegedly blighted by a bypass scheme. Maurice and Audrey Baldwin built Swans Harbour, Wrotham, Norfolk, in 1984. But estate agents deemed it "worthless" after the council said the new road would run through the garden of the house next door.

#### Driver apologises to swimmer

Alfred Trevett, 65, who caused a crash that prevented the swimmer Alexandra Bennett from attending the Olympics, was fined £500. Miss Bennett, 18, broke both legs and ankles in the head-on collision on February 5. Trevett, from Blasby, Nottinghamshire, who admitted careless driving, said: "All I know is that I'm a very sorry."

#### £150,000 for 4d stamps

The only known example of the world's first three adhesive stamps on one envelope was sold for £150,000 at Christie's yesterday to an anonymous buyer. The Penny Black, Two-pence Blue and Penny Red are on an envelope posted in the Earl of Lauderdale in 1841. The letter was posted with the 2d stamp; the others were added when it was redirected.

#### Brothers found hanging in park

Two middle-aged men, believed to be brothers, have been found hanging from a tree in an apparent suicide pact. Their bodies were discovered early yesterday by a workman on a secluded footpath beside the River Ouse near Clifton, York. Police think they might have come from Leeds and are not treating the deaths as suspicious.

#### Model seeks damages over rape

A model who was raped by Owen Oyston when she was 16 has begun a civil action for damages against the entrepreneur in the High Court. Oyston was jailed for six years in May for the rape and indecent assault of the teenage model known only as Miss B. The victim, 20, is claiming for personal injury and losses arising from her ordeal.

#### Basement fire silences Radio 5

Radio 5 Live, the BBC's 24-hour news and sport station, went off the air for two minutes yesterday after fire broke out in the basement of Broadcasting House. About 400 staff were evacuated but no one was hurt. The blaze was caused by an electrical fault and was brought under control by internal fire and security staff.

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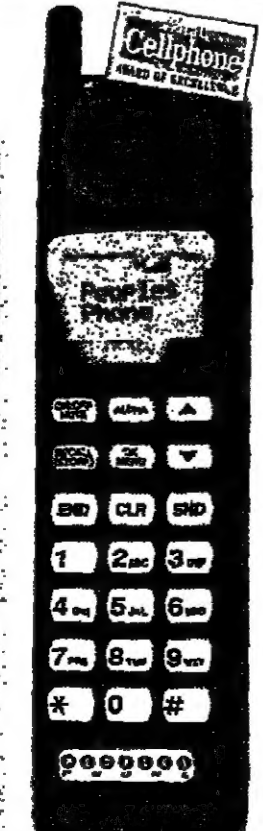
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Editor apologises to readers after falling for elaborate deception

# Sun says video of romping Princess was cunning hoax

By Emma Wilkins and Michael Evans

VIDEO pictures apparently showing Diana, Princess of Wales cavorting with James Hewitt were revealed as a hoax last night.

The Sun, which published stills from the film on Tuesday, admitted it had been fooled. It was "one of the most elaborate hoaxes of the decade," the paper said.

It added it had been "conned by cunning fraudsters" and apologised profusely to the Princess and Hewitt for any hurt or offence caused.

The grainy, black and white pictures were run across five pages. They purported to show the Princess stripping down to sports bra and shorts before passionately embracing a man claimed to be the former cavalry officer.

The Princess admitted in her Panorama interview last November that she had "adored" the former cavalry officer.

At 8pm last night The Sun admitted it had been conned and its main tabloid rival, the Daily Mirror, said it had spoken to the two Diana lookalikes used in the video. Both had believed that when it was shot earlier this year it was to be used in some satirical television programme.

The video, they revealed, was shot at two different locations. One insider said: "It was nothing more than an elaborate hoax and The Sun has been made to look rather ridiculous. Normal journalistic checking would have confirmed that it was not genuine."

The Sun said: "The 80-second film was offered to the editor of The Sun last week during a clandestine meeting with two men who acted as intermediaries."

"We made our best endeavours to corroborate the contents of the film with independent witnesses confirming the apparent identity of the princess and Mr Hewitt. We also hired the services of surveillance experts to assess



James Hewitt at home in Devon yesterday

and give their verdicts on the original source of the film."

Editor Stuart Higgins said: "I take full responsibility for this mistake and will apologise in writing to both the princess and Mr Hewitt for any offence caused. I believe The Sun and myself were the victims of a sophisticated hoax deliberately aimed at embarrassing myself and The Sun newspaper, which prides itself on getting things right and has established a reputation for doing so. I would also like to apologise to our 11 million loyal readers who look to The Sun as their ally on all fronts and should not have been subjected to publication of this hoax."

The revelation that The Sun had been hoaxed came yesterday after the Princess's office dismissed the pictures and the alleged story around them as trivial and unworthy of comment.

A spokeswoman for the Princess said: "The Princess feels that there are far more important things going on in the world today, such as the terrible bombing in Ireland,

than the trivia which is in The Sun."

A spokesperson for Kensington Palace confirmed last night: "The Princess has authorised me to tell you that she does not recognise either herself or Major James Hewitt in these photographs."

Senior royal sources had spent the day questioning the provenance of the video and emphasising that there was no evidence that the footage showed the Princess or Captain Hewitt. "There is doubt about the authenticity of these pictures. Whoever it is in them, it's a pretty prurient and outrageous invasion of someone's privacy," one royal aide said.

The news the video was a fraud came after the Princess, wearing a vibrant scarlet suit, visited an Aids care centre in London and was greeted with cheers and tears of emotional support from a crowd of more than 200.

For the Princess it was business as usual as she joined staff and patients to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the London Lighthouse, Europe's largest residential centre for people affected with HIV and Aids.

Christopher Spence, the founding Director, said the Princess had referred to The Sun but refused to recount her exact remark. "She was on very good form indeed. Very buoyant and pleased to see us all here. She did make a reference to The Sun but it was just in passing."

As she left the Princess stopped to talk to Maureen Wilding, 46, from Montana who is blind and suffers from cerebral palsy. Mrs Wilding asked for a hug and the Princess obliged — causing Mrs Wilding to burst into tears.

James Hewitt posed for photographers outside his home in Bratton Clovelly, Devon but refused to comment. "Leave me alone with my privacy. I have got nothing to say."



The Princess arriving at the London Lighthouse centre for Aids sufferers. Her office said there were more important things in the world than the "trivia" in The Sun

## Man 'would pass muster' as WPC after sex-change

By A Staff Reporter

A 6ft blond rejected by a police force on the grounds that she was a man who had recently undergone a sex-change operation would certainly pass muster as a WPC, the chairman of a industrial tribunal said yesterday.

The transsexual, whose identity cannot be revealed, passed an initial test to join West Midlands Police. But she got no further after she disclosed she had had sex-change surgery.

On her application form the 29-year-old described herself as a single white female. She wrote: "I am single and cannot have children, so I would be able to give the career my whole."

Giving evidence at the tribunal in a black trouser suit, purple blouse and high-heeled shoes, she said that before applying in August 1995 she had consulted the force's medical officer about the necessity of disclosing her medical history. She had undergone sex-change surgery in 1994 after living as a woman for two years, and had changed her driving licence, passport and National Insurance card to her female identity.

"She [the medical officer] advised me not to put my condition on the application form as it was not reviewed by medical officers but by ordinary police officers who were more likely to reject it. I attended the initial assessment, was successful and at the next stage was requested to provide copies of my school certificate. I had not altered these to reflect my true gender."

"This caused difficulties. Ultimately I had to explain that I had gender reassignment surgery. I received a letter from a chief superintendent which stated that due to your gender reassignment you would be precluded by law from undertaking certain routine duties."

Roger Wardle, assistant chief constable of West Midlands Police, said the transsexual had been turned down because she was legally a man and would have been unable to search women or deal with

the victims of indecent assault and rape. The force operated an equal opportunities policy, but he said the applicant was still legally male according to the birth certificate.

"I think I was right to come to the conclusion that it would be wrong to allow this person to carry out searches on females because legally she is a male," Mr Wardle said. But Christopher Tickle, the tribunal chairman, said: "In these circumstances the law is clearly an ass. There's no reason why she couldn't search male suspects under this reasoning. But she doesn't want to search men because she regards herself as a woman and wants to be a female police officer. This person is male by gender but female by appearance."

Mr Tickle said no one would have guessed that she had been born a male. "The chance of a woman complaining about being searched by the applicant is nil. The applicant would certainly pass muster as a member of the female sex with no problem at all."

Mr Wardle admitted that homosexual and lesbian officers in West Midlands Police were allowed to search members of their own sex. But he said that having a transsexual searching women could leave the force open to civil action. "The ability of a police officer to carry out searches in line with the police and criminal evidence act is one of the core tasks expected of an officer. We cannot have officers on the force who cannot carry out certain tasks."

Mr Tickle said: "I would agree with that if you were dealing with hundreds of people in a similar situation to the applicant. But you have had only one transsexual apply to the force. There is no question of any floodgates being opened."

The transsexual said she had applied to be a WPC because there was no chance of promotion in her previous office job, where she had been accepted as woman after her surgery. The tribunal continues today.

## Expelled boy asks court for reprieve

By Bill Frost

A PUPIL expelled for allegedly letting down his teacher's car tyres as an April Fool's Day prank yesterday launched a High Court effort to get back to school.

Martyn Ashworth, 15, who now has home tuition, is arguing that exclusion from Birch's Head High in Stoke-on-Trent was too high a price to pay. His family are fighting the case on legal aid.

Ian Wise, representing the boy, who was not in court, told Mr Justice Turner that Martyn was one of four pupils involved in the incident. However, it was now accepted by the school that he did not let the tyres down but was present when the incident occurred. The other boys received temporary exclusions.

Staffordshire County Council's Education Appeals Committee erred in finding the offence was sufficiently serious to justify expulsion, Mr Wise said. The Secretary of State for Education had issued circulars to schools advising that children should remain at a school unless their presence

was "seriously detrimental" to the education and welfare of others, he added.

The circular also warned that "using one pupil as a scapegoat should always be avoided". The main reason for exclusion should be "serious misbehaviour".

Mr Wise added: "Permanent exclusion should only be imposed as a last resort and is a matter of common sense recognised by the Secretary of State in a circular. All reasonable alternatives should be attempted beforehand."

In a letter, the boy's solicitor told the local education authority: "As advised, Martyn was not a member of the group who deflated the teacher's tyres. He was present at the incident simply as a result of the fact he was walking with the group in question from a football match."

Furthermore, we understand that at no time has Martyn ever admitted to being the student responsible for the incident."

The hearing was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

## US police quiz abducted girl

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A FOUR-year-old Belfast girl who went missing for 20 hours in Florida at the end of a family holiday was yesterday questioned by female officers from the sex crimes division of Orlando Police Department.

Cadimha McEvoy, who was with her parents at a local hotel, was said to bear no obvious signs of abuse after she was apparently abducted for a night. Officers and social workers trained in dealing with rape victims were involved in the delicate process of debriefing.

Dozens of men in the Orlando area with sex offence records have been interviewed by police. One man was freed from custody after providing a satisfactory alibi.

Cadimha, shoeless and dressed in a blue polka dot dress, vanished from the Quality Inn motel on Sunday evening while her parents were packing for their flight home on Monday. A police spokesman said: "We are following several leads. There is no doubt she was abducted and we are trying to piece

together the details of what happened."

Cadimha was found by a family holiday on Monday afternoon standing, confused, by a main road some 20 miles from the Quality Inn. Her father, Gerard, 38, expressed thanks to the many well-wishers who had tried to make contact. He also thanked local law enforcement officials. "We were having a fantastic time until this happened," he said. "The authorities here have been great."

At the time of Cadimha's disappearance, Mr McEvoy thought that she was with her grandparents, while they assumed that she was with her father. Help was summoned and a police search began within 90 minutes.

She was said to have had a good night's sleep on Monday and appeared to be in good health. Deputy Michael Pagan of the Orange County sheriff's department said: "Kids tend to block out a lot of these traumatic events so it is crucial to get the right people to talk to them."

## Taxi driver dared to win bride with fake role as SAS officer fleeing IRA

By Joanna Bale

FOR five years a taxi driver deceived his girlfriend into believing that he was an SAS officer. He claimed his life was under threat from terrorists and paid friends in fake uniforms and carrying air rifles to patrol the hills around the couple's home.

Anthony Jones, 36, said he was a lieutenant-colonel, persuaded a friend to don army gear to pose as his commanding officer, and arranged a military-style wedding. Yesterday he was jailed for 18 months for a series of frauds to pay for his "SAS" lifestyle.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that for his wedding to Diane, 35, Jones hired a uniform with a ceremonial sword and peaked cap. He obtained six more bearing the SAS emblem for his friends but they refused to take part. Jones told his bride: "They've been called overseas on SAS duty."

He ran up a £1,400 bill at the reception

for 40 guests, claiming it would be paid by the Ministry of Defence, and told the vicar, the Rev Colin Richards, that a security cordon had been thrown around Trinity Church, Portcawl, for the service last October.

Jones's only military experience was three months in the Territorial Army, from which he was discharged for impersonating a major. He met his future wife, a mother of two, when she was a passenger in his taxi. He told her: "I'm not a taxi driver really, I'm working undercover for the SAS."

Peter Jacobs, for the prosecution, said: "Jones changed his name twice by deed poll, claiming the IRA were onto him. Unfortunately Mrs Jones was taken in by it all."

"He came home after one of his fake manoeuvres and told Diane he was required to do a charity walk as part of an army punishment. He chose a charity called the British Institute for Brain Injured Children and also offered to

donate some of the proceeds to the primary school where Diane's children attended. He carried out the walk from Portcawl to Edinburgh in April 1995 and free accommodation was laid on along the route.

"After the walk he said he would forward the money to the charity but it was not forthcoming. He in fact put the estimated £6,000 into his account and it was swallowed up by his overdraft."

Jones, of Portcawl, admitted 23 charges including stealing the £6,000, obtaining a bank overdraft and credit while an undischarged bankrupt, obtaining services by deception and perverting the course of justice.

After the case Mrs Jones, a welfare officer, said: "I was shocked to find out what had been going on and in some ways I can't believe it. I still think that basically he is a good man. All he was trying to do was impress me." She said that she was considering her future with her husband.

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Arrival of second wife at aristocrat's home was 'emotional straw that broke the camel's back'

# Housekeeper stole from lord when he married new lady

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A HOUSEKEEPER stole cherished possessions from her aristocratic employer after he brought home a new wife, Carole Parker, 44, took war-time medals and other items worth thousands of pounds from the Gloucestershire home of Lord Apsley, heir to the 14,000-acre Cirencester Park estate.

Magistrates in Cirencester were told that Parker went off the rails after Lord Apsley, whose father, Earl Bathurst, is a polo-playing friend of the Prince of Wales, married his second wife, Jenny Jonckheer, for the prosecution, said. "She told police she felt her job as housekeeper had been reduced in importance, together with her own worth."

Brian Head, for the defence, told the court that Parker regarded her job as a come-down and was already depressed when the new Lady Apsley arrived. "Within a short space of time it was becoming difficult," he said. "It was largely because of the attitude and approach towards her of the new partner of Lord Apsley. She was displaying a very difficult and



Carole Parker stole medals and mementoes

sands of pounds. They were collected over many generations and were of great sentimental value to the Bathurst family. Lady Apsley later expressed her concern that this lady, who was a trusted employee of the family, felt obliged to do what she did. She said, "We feel greatly betrayed."

Other items included a stamp album and a Hornby toy train. Parker sold them during a total of three visits to an antiques dealer in Cirencester.

"When he had them valued after the first visit he realised they were, in fact, worth a great deal more than he thought," Mrs Jonckheer said. "It aroused his suspicions but she had told him they were items from her family and he had no reason to think that was not the truth." On Parker's second visit the dealer was more suspicious and informed police. "She returned a third time but, in the meanwhile, police had been contacted and were waiting for her to make an approach," Mrs Jonckheer said.

Police later searched her flat in converted stables on the estate and found a bin liner in



Lord and Lady Apsley: the defence claimed that Lady Apsley displayed "a very difficult and overbearing attitude" towards her housekeeper

the boot of her car containing more items, including a Hornby train carriage. Although all the items were returned, some of them, including an 1886 stamp album from which stamps had been removed, were spoilt and tainted.

Mr Head said that Parker

had never been in trouble before and that the theft was totally out of character. Her mother's death 13 years ago caused her to become so depressed that her marriage had broken up and she lost her professional job. She took the housekeeping post, which included accommodation for

her and her daughter, as a last resort.

"She saw herself as a failure — a bit like a doctor reduced to a dustman," Mr Head said. "The housekeeper's job was the end of the road."

It was the arrival of the second Lady Apsley which finally tipped her over the

edge, he said. "She was depressed, emotionally under strain and behaved in an uncharacteristic, irrational and unacceptable way. She bitterly regrets it and wishes she could turn back the clock."

Parker, from Welshpool, Powys admitted a single count of the theft of 16 items between

January 1 and July 6 this year. She was ordered to carry out 120 hours' community service work and to pay £170 compensation to the antiques dealer. She was also ordered to pay £40 costs.

She was too upset to comment as she left court with friends.

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## Inmates to run wing of prison

BY STEWART TENDLER

PRISONERS are to run their own prison wing under a scheme backed by the Home Office, to rehabilitate criminals. The Verne prison in Portland, Dorset, is to be the British testbed for a system used in the United States and Brazil.

The scheme, run by the Association for the Protection and Assistance of the Convicted (Apac), will allow prisoners to manage a wing and suggest ways of improving conditions and morale. Prisoners will police the wing under a senior prison officer and an ex-offender could be appointed director.

Organisers are looking for charities to help to fund the scheme and to pay the salaries of the director and deputy so that the scheme will not depend on Home Office money. If they can raise the funds the scheme could start next spring.

Tim Turner, governor of the prison, said: "This is an exciting project which has never been tried in this country although it has been successful elsewhere. We are not undertaking this project lightly and the group will run within the overall rules of the prison with staff maintaining overall control. If the system works then any sign of abuse of power among prisoners will be stopped by peer pressure."

The idea first emerged in an overcrowded and hostile prison in Brazil. After a series of riots the authorities handed over half of the jail to Christian volunteers. Conditions and behaviour improved dramatically, leading to the complex being handed over to Apac with a former prisoner being made governor. A spokeswoman for the Prison Service said the scheme had the support of the service.

## Mad cow disease was 'act of God'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

MAD cow disease was "an act of God" and should not be blamed on the British Government, a senior official in the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday.

While the Government might have responded differently to the disease with hindsight, the overreaction of some European Union countries had made the crisis worse, Richard Packer, the ministry's permanent secretary, told Euro MPs in Brussels.

Speaking at a European Parliament committee of inquiry into BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Mr Packer said: "Was the UK Government responsible for the whole disastrous mess? No, it wasn't."

"In the main it was an act of God, if you like. Some of the things we have done we might with the benefit of hindsight have done differently. To that extent the UK Government accepts responsibility — but that is not very much of the responsibility."

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, had been asked to address the inquiry personally but he refused on the grounds that he was attending the Tory party conference in Bournemouth.

To José Happort, a Belgian Socialist Euro MP, who wanted to know who was to blame for the BSE crisis if it was not the British Government, Mr Packer replied: "I do not accept that when something goes wrong it is necessarily somebody's fault."

"It is true in the case of BSE that not all our controls were 100 per cent effective and to that extent we have a share of the responsibility. But that is a small share. It is not the fault of the scientists. It is our fault," he said.

BSE protest, page 9

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## Descendant of man who sold out to mine company spent 26 years repaying 'debt to nature'

### Now green is the valley my ancestors ruined

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A FAMILY has spent 26 years restoring a ravaged Cumbrian valley more than two centuries after their ancestors sold it to a lead mining company.

When Ian Johnston inherited Thortegill Gorge, an eight-acre site on Alston Moor high up in the North Pennines in 1971, he also inherited "a debt to Nature" which he determined to repay.

In the 1780s his ancestors sold the land to be mined because it was too steep for farming. When the mine closed in the early 1920s, the valley, with its streams and waterfalls, had been buried under thousands of tons of rock and spoil.

Aided by his sons David and Andrew and his wife Jennifer and using for the most part only picks, shovels and wheelbarrows, Mr Johnston has returned the valley as near as possible to its original state. The streams and waterfalls flow again, thousands of trees grow on the hillsides,



flowers carpet the ground and wildlife, including a rare English colony of red squirrels, is abundant.

Last month the family travelled to London to receive a pewter plate from *Country Life* commemorating the magazine's choice of Mr Johnston as its Countryman of the Year. "It was a wonderful occasion," he said yesterday. "I had not been to London for 35 years. Indeed, we had not taken a holiday of any kind for 25 years because we were so busy."

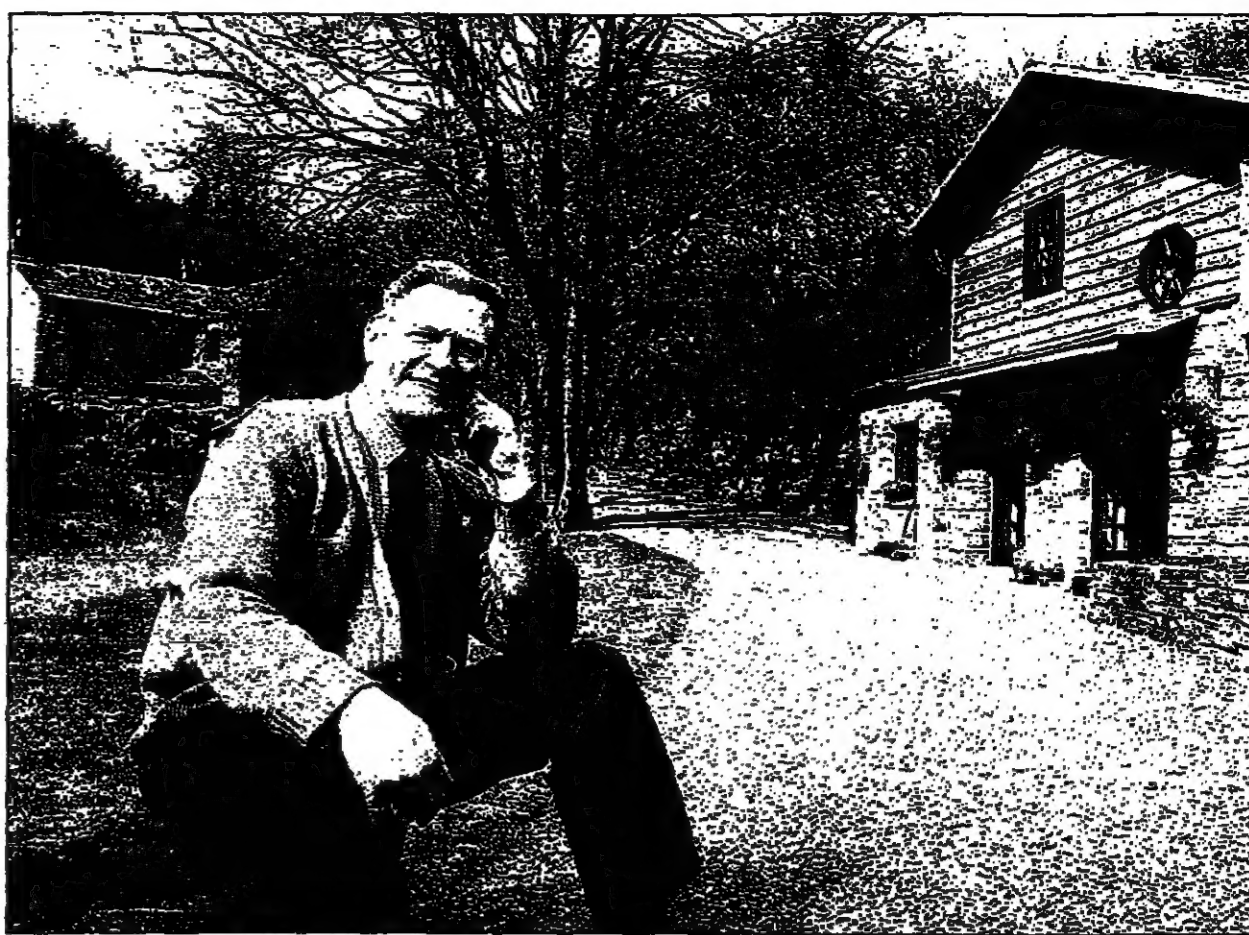
Johnstons had lived in the

area for centuries. "We were border reivers [brigands] and spent a lot of our time pillaging and marauding. I am afraid," Mr Johnston said. His uncle bought Thortegill Gorge in 1938 and began clearing it up. "He was able to do little more than touch the surface. When I took it over, all the old mine shafts, or drifts, railway culverts and workings were still there."

"We brought in excavating machinery but in the upper reaches, where the ravine was narrowest, we had to do everything by hand."

Twelve years ago, Mr Johnston sold his business distributing industrial supplies and used the proceeds on his scheme. He estimates the local authority would have spent more than £1 million to achieve the same.

The family converted the mine workshop into their home. Mr Johnston's sons, who are trained blacksmiths, built a forge where they make garden furniture.



Eden restored: Ian Johnston and his family recreated waterfalls and streams and reintroduced trees and wildlife

## School shotgun boy sentenced to four years

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A BOY aged 12 who went to school armed with a stolen "win-off" shotgun and cartridges inscribed with pupils' names was sentenced to four years' detention at Edinburgh High Court yesterday.

The judgment was made on the eve of the memorial service being held at Dunblane Cathedral in memory of the 16 pupils and a teacher murdered by Thomas Hamilton on March 13. Prince Charles is expected to attend.

The court was told yesterday that the boy informed friends he had drawn up a hitlist and planned to shoot pupils at his secondary school who had "grassed" on him two days earlier, when he had been caught stealing a computer mouse from a classroom. He also bragged that he would shoot himself.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, stole the double-barrelled shotgun from his father's gun cabinet and shortened the barrels with a hacksaw.

He set off for school on May 15 - two and a half months after the Dunblane massacre - carrying the gun, 15 cartridges, an air pistol and two knives in his bag. Three of the cartridges had the names of pupils written on them and one bore his own nickname.

On the bus he told friends: "It's today." At one point he took the gun out of his school bag and put it under his chin.

The headmaster learnt of the plans when news that the boy had a gun spread through the school "like wildfire", the court was told. He took charge of the boy's bag and called the police. At no time had the boy

actually threatened anyone with the weapon.

Sentencing the boy to four years' detention, temporary judge Robin McEwan, QC, said it was "almost inexplicable" why this had happened. He said the sentence in a secure school would cover the boy's period in education.

"At the present time any offence involving the use of guns requires to be taken very seriously. However I cannot overlook the fact that you are a child and I have taken account of that," he said. "You have some very concerned and caring people looking after you and I am confident they will keep you away from further offending."

The boy admitted possessing the gun on a bus and at the school and possessing an air pistol and two knives. He also admitted possessing the firearm with intent to cause others to believe that unlawful violence would be used against schoolchildren. He also admitted stealing the shotgun and shortening it.

The boy's defence counsel, Ruth Anderson, said the youngster came from "a caring, supportive and loving" family. He had shown signs of behaviour problems and he was inclined to be a show-off, she said.

After the hearing, Ann Pearston, organiser of Dunblane's anti-gun Snowdrop Petition, said the fact the boy was able to take a gun from his father's gun cabinet raised serious questions: "I would like to know whether any action is being taken against the boy's father."

## Thumbs-up, then bomb exploded

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN OFFICER of the Diplomatic Protection Group said yesterday that he gave the thumbs-up sign to a security guard after checking a car near the Israeli Embassy moments before it exploded.

PC Ian Duncan, who was knocked over by the blast, told the Old Bailey that the car had been parked by a woman he had first seen speaking into an intercom of a neighbouring building. She said that she was visiting friend. When told to move her car, she asked for an extra five minutes to get cigarettes from a shop near by.

PC Duncan said: "She offered me the keys. I declined the offer and told her so long as she was only five minutes, or as quick as she could, I would allow her to leave the vehicle there. I allowed five minutes to pass then I did a vehicle check on my personal radio."

The officer saw a security guard from the embassy taking a closer look at the car. "He glanced at me and I gave him the thumbs up that I had checked the vehicle and nothing untoward had come back. The embassy man made his way to me and appeared to be about to start a conversation when the vehicle blew up."

The car bomb caused at least £5 million damage to buildings in the area. The officer suffered shock but was not injured.

He picked out Nadia Zekra, 48, at an identity parade in January of the following year. He had "absolutely no doubt" that she was the woman he had seen at the embassy.

The prosecution alleges that Mrs Zekra, a mother of two, planted the car bomb as part of a Palestinian terror group's campaign to sabotage an Israeli-Arab peace initiative in July 1994. Mrs Zekra, of West Kensington, has denied causing an explosion.

Earlier the court was told that fingerprint evidence linked three other alleged members of the terror group to a cache of arms and bomb ingredients found in a safe deposit in Acton, west London, nearly a year after the embassy bomb and a second explosion outside a Jewish charity.

Samir Alami, 30, of South Kensington; Jawad Botmeh, 28, of Bloomsbury; and Mahmoud Abu-Wardeh, 25, of Putney, deny conspiring to cause explosions and possessing an explosive substance and firearms.

The trial continues.

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## High Court rules asylum seekers may claim benefit

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government suffered another defeat at the hands of the High Court yesterday when a High Court judge ruled that asylum seekers may claim benefit under the National Assistance Act 1948.

Mr Justice Collins said that local councils must provide asylum seekers at risk of destitution "with the basics for survival" while their claims for refugee status are being considered.

In cases brought by four asylum seekers, which could affect more than 30,000 people, Mr Justice Collins ruled that local authorities had a duty to grant emergency aid to immigrants who had been denied it because they failed to claim asylum on entry.

He was careful to say that he did not consider that his ruling frustrated recent government legislation to curb bogus asylum seekers, introduced to undercut the effects of a court ruling in June.

He said: "I find it impossible to believe that Parliament intended that an asylum seeker, who was lawfully here and who could not be lawfully removed from the country, should be left destitute, starving and at risk of grave illness and even death because he

could find no one to provide him with the bare necessities of life."

But pressure groups and charities working with asylum seekers viewed the case as a highly successful attempt to establish basic legal rights for an estimated 8,000 asylum seekers denied emergency funding under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

Gerry Clore, solicitor for the asylum seekers, said many genuine asylum seekers faced the prospect of starving to death on the streets of British cities. "One of the four bringing this case arrived at our office having not eaten for three days and sleeping rough in Hyde Park. He would have become ill very quickly had we not intervened."

He said the applicants would be provided with basic assistance and money for board and essentials.

The Asylum and Immigration Act, which received Royal Assent in July, was criticised as "the most draconian piece of legislation this century". It was rushed through after a Court of Appeal ruling in June which reinstated benefits, including housing benefit and income support, to asylum seekers. The court said Peter Lilley, the Social Security Sec-

retary, had exceeded his powers when he introduced changes meant to save £200 million a year.

Councils greeted the latest ruling with alarm. Alex Segal, chairman of Westminster City Council's social services committee, said if his council was obliged to provide board and lodging for asylum seekers at a cost of £300 a week, the yearly bill would run to thousands.

David Pannick, QC, appearing for the four asylum seekers — from Iraq, Romania, Algeria and China — had argued that local councils were under a legal duty to provide shelter and the necessities for survival.

He argued that three London authorities — Westminster, Lambeth and Hammer-smith and Fulham — were in breach of their obligations under the National Assistance Act in refusing to provide housing for destitute applicants who were desperate and could not look after themselves. Mr Justice Collins agreed. He said the authorities had adopted "too narrow a construction" of the law. Quashing their decisions to deny the asylum seekers help, he ordered them to reconsider each case.



Narrowed horizon: the outlook from the sitting-room of the Laws' cottage before and after the trees were grown

## Retired couple claim squire cast shadow over room with a view

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A COUPLE are taking on a wealthy country squire in a legal battle to reclaim the view over the Welsh mountains from the sitting room window of their retirement cottage.

John Laws, 61, a former history teacher, and his wife Brenda, 61, were drawn to Bay Tree Cottage in the village of Stoke Edith, Hereford and Worcester, because of its setting on the edge of the 7,500-acre estate owned by Andrew Foley. Sunlight streamed through the rooms and in the evening they were able to watch the sun go down across 30 miles of unspoilt countryside.

Then, five years ago, Mr Foley, 58, planted fast-growing *Cupressocyparis leylandii* eight feet from the north and west walls, shrouding the house in darkness.

The Laws say they cannot understand why Mr Foley has ignored pleas to cut back the growth, which imprisons the house inside a 15ft-high conifer hedge. When Mr



Hedged in: Brenda and John Laws at Bay Tree Cottage

Laws lost his job as a community care project worker two years ago, the couple put the house on the market. They have been told by estate agents that the Leylandii render unsaleable the former estate gardener's cottage they bought for £42,000 in 1988.

Mr Foley has triggered a

clause in the conveyancing document that gives him first option on a sale. He has made offers of £60,000 and £55,000, which the Laws turned down because they say they represent half the property's market value.

The couple began a long legal battle which they say has eaten up their £10,000 savings and damaged their health. Their action for nuisance, interference with the right to light and compensation for damage to the walls is likely to be heard shortly in Hereford County Court.

Before the trees grew the Laws could see the chimneys of the 17th-century mansion at the centre of Mr Foley's extensive estate. He also owns land in America. The squire's ancestors include Paul Foley, a speaker in the House of Commons in the 17th century, and Lord William Graham, who was MP for Hereford in the last century.

Mr Foley hit the headlines two years ago when he left Gillian, his wife of 20 years, for Melanie Westall-Reece, 31, a former promotions manager for Hereford United soccer club.

Mrs Laws said: "He thinks he can do this because he is lord of the manor but he is living in the past. It is like living in a cave. We cannot see anything and we have to have the lights on all day. All we see is a mass of green."

## Price of petrol hits £3 a gallon

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING EDITOR

PETROL prices have reached £3 a gallon as oil companies try to claw back the loss of millions of pounds in the forecourt price war. A survey has discovered that the price of a gallon of super-unleaded has already reached 66.3p a litre (£3.01 a gallon) in one area of the country.

Prices rose by 2p a litre last month, the latest in a series of rises since July when the big oil companies appear to have called a truce in their fight with supermarket chains. The survey was carried out by PHH Allstar, which provides fuel charge cards for company cars. Brecon Quaddy, its spokesman, said: "In nearly 20 years of monitoring fuel prices, these are the highest prices we have seen. Anyone filling the tank of a medium-sized family car with ten gallons will have to pay nearly £2.80 more this month than they did in August."

PHH surveyed 700,000 transactions at petrol stations. Its research showed that four-star fuel selling in September at a national average of 63p a litre (£2.86 a gallon), unleaded at 58p (£2.64), super-unleaded at 63p (£2.90) and diesel at 59p (£2.66). Plymouth was the costliest place to fill up, with super-unleaded at 66.3p (£3.01). Bradford was the cheapest, with 58p (£2.66).

Keith Greenhead, PHH's fuel division manager, said: "The main objective of the major oil companies during the price war was to improve their share of the market. Thousands of independent retailers have been forced out of business."

"It shouldn't really come as a surprise to anyone that oil companies are now beginning to charge prices necessary to be profitable. Motorists have enjoyed the benefits of artificially low prices for many months and it was good while it lasted."

Shell said last night that £3 for a gallon of super-unleaded was unrepresentative. "Super-unleaded is only 3 per cent of the market and does not tell the whole story. Recent prices have been driven by an increase in the cost of bulk product fuelled by the tense situation in the Middle East."

## West Coast line bidders to bring in high-speed tilting trains

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE sale of the 400-mile West Coast Main Line between London and Glasgow was launched yesterday, with bidders asked to introduce high-speed tilting trains by 2002.

The 125mph trains will cut journey times between London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow, allowing the franchise operator to compete more effectively with airlines. A £500 million fleet of about 36 trains, expected to be ordered next year from Italy or Sweden, will have a fastest journey time from London to Glasgow (normally five hours)

of about four hours and to Manchester (two and a half hours) of one hour and 50 minutes.

At present the line has the worst punctuality record on the InterCity network, with about 20 per cent of services running late. The offer of the franchise is linked to a £1.5 billion upgrade by Railtrack over the next ten years.

The image of tilting trains was tarnished in Britain by the memory of the "queasy rider" fiasco of the early 1980s when British Rail had to scrap its £50 million fleet of Ad-

vanced Passenger Trains because they made passengers feel sick. Other European engineers have mastered the problem and the popularity of tilting trains has increased across Europe.

The 15-year franchise is expected to be let by Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, in March. Fourteen companies, including Richard Branson's Virgin Group, the London & Continental Railways consortium building the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and several bus companies have been invited to bid.

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Price of petrol hits £3 a gallon

# Trust asks Castro to return Havana half of Canaletto

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust is trying to persuade Cuba to sell half of a Canaletto canvas that was cut in two by the painter to make it more saleable.

The trust hopes to reunite the two halves of the 18th-century painter's *Chelsea from the Thames*, one of which is in the National Museum, Havana, and the other in a Norfolk stately home. The left-hand portion, showing the Thames with the greenhouse of the Physic Garden, is in Blickling Hall in Norfolk, which is owned by the National Trust. The right



Canaletto: reputation bruised by his nephew

half, a study of Chelsea Hospital and Ranelagh Gardens, is in Cuba.

The trust has appealed to Fidel Castro to sell the work, which was donated to the museum 50 years ago by Oscar Cintas, a Cuban collector. The Canaletto is not on display because the museum is closed for refurbishment.

Nobody from the National Trust has managed to see the Cuban half or inspect its condition. Alastair Laing, adviser on pictures and sculpture to the trust, said: "I don't think the National Trust means very much to the authorities in Cuba. I wrote last year when it looked as if things were loosening up in Cuba. It all seems to have closed down again." The Helms-Burton Act, which allows American companies to sue foreign businesses or individuals that have gained from investment in Cuban property confiscated since the revolution, is not likely to affect the trust's attempt.

Merlin Waterson, regional director for the trust's East Anglia region, said the trust had heard the Cuban Government might want to dispose of various pictures. He added: "Our picture is so very beautiful. But as soon as you know it



Chelsea from the Thames: it is not known if the right-hand portion, in the National Museum, Havana, has been damaged or if the quality of the photograph is poor

is only half, you long to see the artist's full conception. If it had been lost or destroyed, we would still have a superb and beautiful picture. I'm sure the Tate or National Gallery would be interested in acquiring it for the nation."

The painting was produced during Canaletto's visit to

England between 1746 and 1748. He advertised it on July 31, 1751, in *The Daily Advertiser*: "Signior Canaletto! Gives notice that he has painted the Representation of Chelsea College, Ranelagh House, and the River Thames, which if any Gentleman and others are pleas'd to favour him with

seeing the same, he will attend at his Lodgings..." Canaletto — who is best represented in the Royal Collection — was one of the most sought-after artists of his day. He may have had difficulty selling this painting because his reputation had been bruised by his nephew,

Bellotto, borrowing his name. Mr Laing said: "When the real one came along, they accused the uncle of being a fraud." That, he suggested, may have taken its toll.

The painting was believed to have measured 38in by 92in before being cut up. The trust's 34½in by 42in portion

was among Blickling's contents when the house was donated by the Marquis of Lothian in 1940.

Mr Laing said it was unusual for a picture of such quality to have been sliced up, particularly, as is believed, by the artist. Dealers regularly used to cut up pictures, ex-

tracting part of a landscape, for example.

Other paintings that have been cut up and later renovated include a view of Dordrecht by Aelbert Cuyp, owned by the trust, and Manet's *Execution of Maximilian*, which was reassembled by Degas.

## Builders unearth mass grave from Wars of Roses

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MASS grave dating from the Wars of the Roses has been discovered by builders near Tadcaster in North Yorkshire. The skeletons are believed to be victims of the Battle of Towton, one of the bloodiest battles fought on British soil in which more than 31,000 men fell. So far more than 80 skeletons have been recovered and some have been reburied at a churchyard near by.

The battle took place in 1461, ending in victory for the Lancastrian forces. So many died that legend holds that the local stream, the Cock Beck, ran red with blood for days afterwards.

The grave was found by men from KG Construction who were using a JCB to prepare the ground for building work. They alerted the Home Office and the skeletons were studied in a joint operation between Bradford University and the Yorkshire Archaeological Services.

Neil Campling, county archaeologist for North Yorkshire, said the six-hour battle was fought in a snowstorm. "We found about 50 skeletons heaped together in a communal grave. It is likely that they were buried where they fell, so there may be more remains

around the area. One of the skeletons still had the metal tip of an arrowhead embedded in its spine. Others had fractures and breaks to their legs, suggesting that because of the armour worn around the trunk, the enemy would try to bring their foe to his knees and then attack his head."

The bones were sent to the Calvin Wells Laboratory at Bradford University for analysis. Veronica Fiorato, deputy county archaeologist, said that while the location of various burial pits from the Wars of the Roses were known, excavation was rare. Further analysis would yield more details of an exciting find.

The Rev Chris Coates was happy to rebury some of the skeletons in a service at All Saints Church, Saxton. He said: "The workmen who found the grave attended the funeral. Most of the dead probably spent their last hours in the bloody heat of battle."

"They would have been very young, teenagers. I should think. I know that all of them came to a pretty grisly end. I think they have spent enough time in a field, they deserve their place in consecrated ground."

opinion before deciding for himself.

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# Right opens fire on Clarke over single currency

By Jill Sherman and Andrew Pierce

OPEN warfare broke out on the first day of the Tory party conference when Kenneth Clarke came under fire from the Right for his pro-European approach.

David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as a minister earlier this year, criticised the Chancellor for his stance on the single currency, while Lord Tebbit argued that it was impossible to favour political union and remain a member of the Tory party.

As Tory differences over Europe dominated the fringe and threatened to overshadow the main conference, Sir Leon Brittan delivered a robust defence of monetary union and defended Mr Clarke. He was immediately rounded on by Lord Tebbit, who bitterly condemned his former Cabinet colleague for interfering in the party's EU debate.

Sir Leon, vice-president of the European Commission, sprang to the Chancellor's defence as he warned Euro-sceptics not to jeopardise the EU just as things were turning Britain's way. "Don't think it hasn't been noticed in Brussels that the success of the Conservative Government in leading the British economy from recession on a sound basis is the envy of our European partners," he said. "They know perfectly well that success is due in no small measure, and indeed in very large measure, to the sound hand on the tiller and wise judgment and courage of Kenneth Clarke."

Sir Leon praised the Prime Minister's decision to leave the

## BOURNEMOUTH



1996

door open for possible membership of a single currency and argued that there was no justification for the "fears and bogymen" brought up by Euro-sceptics to frighten the country. "It would be perverse to turn our backs on Europe just as it is turning our way," he said. He portrayed a Europe of consent, free choice and mutual benefit which Britain had always wanted. "It would be a mistake of immense proportions if the panic and defeatism of the anti-Europeans were to deny us that achievement just as it is finally within our grasp."

However, Lord Tebbit, a former party chairman, said that Sir Leon should have known better. He told a crowded room of 1,200 Euro-sceptic activists: "It was difficult enough to suffer these paid lobbyists like Sir Leon Brittan interfering in our affairs. Civil servants should know their place."

Lord Tebbit, who received a standing ovation as he took to the stage, was repeatedly

attacked the EU. But he reserved his most bitter attack for Sir Leon, one of Britain's two EU commissioners.

"Civil servants who have undertaken not to break their Privy Council oath, by upholding the interests of this kingdom above all others, should particularly keep quiet."

The fringe meeting, hosted by the European Foundation, the Euro-sceptic think-tank partly funded by Baroness Thatcher, was easily the best attended of the day. Dozens of people were turned away at the door.

Lord Tebbit also added to the fray with an implicit attack on the Chancellor, claiming that anyone who believed in political union — which he believed a single currency would inevitably lead to — could not remain a member of the Tory Party.

"In my judgment, here in our party the advocates of political union — often sloppily called federalists — are very few in number indeed. In fact I would go as far as to say that while there may be right-wing federalists it is simply impossible to accept both the ethos and philosophy of this party and a doctrine of federalism or political union. They are mutually exclusive."

He believed that John Major was right to say that Britain should be in on the negotiations. But he added: "I do not believe that this is incompatible with saying that Britain will not participate in the first wave."

Throughout the day the Euro-sceptic protagonists



By Andrew Pierce

SUPPORTERS of John Redwood and Michael Portillo are working behind the scenes this week, pressing the case of their candidates in the unofficial Tory leadership contest.

Few doubt that the Right's hour will come in a post-Major leadership contest. The balance of power between the Redwood and Portillo camp is constantly shifting.

Mr Redwood attracted 89 votes in the leadership contest against Mr Major last year. His supporters claim he has now

dominated the agenda with John Redwood questioning the Prime Minister's "wait and see" policy. Michael Howard and Michael Portillo also adopted a Euro-sceptic tone, but as their speeches had been vetted by Downing Street they contained few fireworks.

Mr Redwood told a fringe meeting packed with about

300 party members that it was impossible to influence the debate on a single currency unless Britain had an opinion. "Tactically criticising the Prime Minister's policy," he said, "is not going to be possible for either major party to get through an election campaign saying it does not know whether it wishes to abolish

the pound or not, when a decision will have to be taken on this crucial matter so soon after the election."

He added: "If we unite behind the Prime Minister's statement that monetary union without observing the treaty would be dangerous, we could then attack Labour for their evasions and their refusal even to grant a referendum on the issue."

The motion committing the Government to the preservation of the Union was passed unanimously.

But he still has many supporters. Norman Lamont, one of Mr Redwood's principal backers, has swung back behind Mr Portillo.

"Michael is going to make carefully measured speeches, praising the Prime Minister, and remaining very loyal. He believes that is the way to maintain and win the respect of many of his colleagues. Unity first is his philosophy," one of his lieutenants said last night.

But the danger for both is that they have split the Right. Michael Howard or Michael Forsyth could come through the middle and seal the crown.

## Sceptics poised for spring offensive

By Philip Webster  
POLITICAL EDITOR

LEADING Euro-sceptics within the Cabinet are to make a further attempt to persuade the Prime Minister to rule Britain out of the European single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament.

They are likely to make their move early in the new year when, because the election will be only a few weeks away, they believe a change from John Major's wait-and-see policy would be less likely to provoke a damaging resignation from Kenneth Clarke or Michael Heseltine.

Conservative insiders say there is a majority in the Cabinet for what they see as the electorally popular move of ruling Britain out of monetary union.

Euro-sceptic ministers support the current line being taken by John Major, that he is keeping Britain's options open so that he can retain a seat at the negotiating table.

The stance was spelt out definitively by Mr Major in *The Times* on Saturday in an attempt to forestall trouble at this week's conference.

Although tensions on Europe were clearly on view on the fringe of the conference yesterday, with Mr Clarke under attack from the former minister David Heathcoat-Amory and Lord Tebbit, there were no signs of the Cabinet truce coming under strain.

An indication of the Euro-sceptic shift in the Cabinet was shown by last March's discussion which led to the agreement that the Government would hold a referendum on the single currency if it decided to go in. The move for a referendum did not come from the Euro-sceptics, such as Michael Portillo, Michael Howard, Michael Forsyth and William Hague.

It was apparently proposed by Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, who was swiftly backed by Tony Newton, the Commons leader, Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary.

It was only then that the delighted sceptics weighed in, leaving Mr Clarke, Mr Heseltine, and John Gummer isolated.



Forsyth: call to arms

## Ministers deride 'dangerous' Labour devolution plans

By Alice Thomson  
POLITICAL REPORTER

SCOTTISH and Welsh devolution would be as dangerous to Britain as European federalism, William Hague and Michael Forsyth told the conference yesterday.

They urged Tories not to get so embroiled in the debate over Brussels that they did not notice the threat that their own country might be torn apart, Mr Hague, the Welsh

Secretary, led the assault on Labour's devolution plans insisting that maintaining the "strength, unity and integrity" of the United Kingdom was the highest priority. He said the simple message to the voters was: "You can vote Labour, but if you do, it may cost you your job, it will certainly cost you in your pocket and it may also cost you your country."

After their speeches, Mr Hague and Mr Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, waved a large Union Jack as Baron-

ess Thatcher led a standing ovation. Mr Hague told the conference he knew a dog's breakfast when he saw one, adding: "Labour's devolution plans are a breakfast to which no self-respecting dog would put its name."

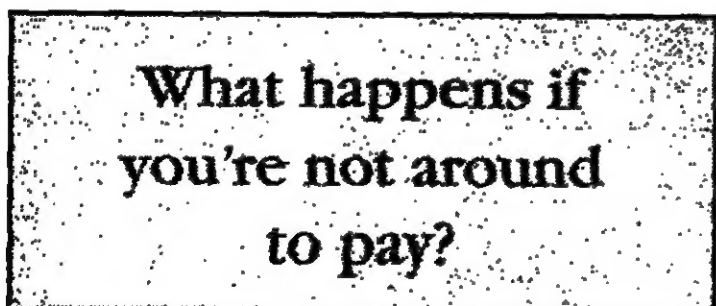
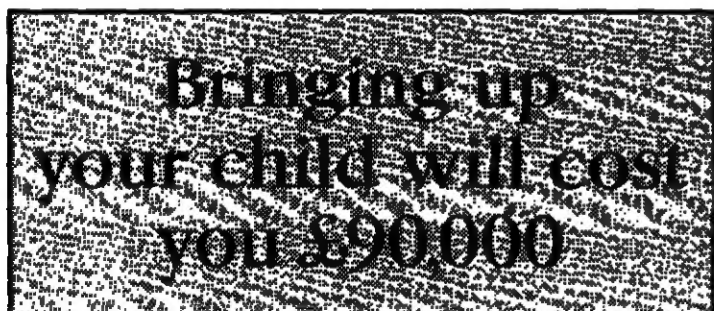
Mr Forsyth said that devolution would mean the end of Britain and urged the party to stand up and fight for the Union. He said: "Our United Kingdom is in mortal danger. We must reclaim our birthright. Now's the day and now's the hour to stand

up and win back our country — win the Battle of Britain."

The Opposition wanted to keep Scottish MPs at Westminster after devolution to "impose socialism on England" but its policy was a sham, he said. "Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, would not be able to legislate on health, education or most other matters affecting the daily lives of his constituents in Dumfrieshire, but he could do so for people in Dagenham under Labour's

proposals." He asked the representatives to imagine the Union Jack without the St Andrew's Cross and held one up before casting it aside. "You are left with an anaemic red asterisk. Does this represent the past three centuries of our history? Does this make your blood course with memories of a thousand triumphs in war and peace?"

The motion committing the Government to the preservation of the Union was passed unanimously.



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## Women put their faith in Labour

Only 30 per cent of women who have decided on their vote will back the Conservatives at the next election, compared with 52 per cent for Labour, according to a MORI poll. The figures, showing that the Tories can no longer count on a traditional source of support, will be discussed at a conference fringe meeting tomorrow. John Major's rating with women lags at -29.

### Question time

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, broke with tradition and held a question-and-answer session instead of delivering a speech. The apparently unscripted questions were on subjects ranging from abortion to NHS bureaucracy.

### Today's business

Malcolm Rifkind on Europe and foreign affairs; Ian Lang on trade and industry; question-and-answer session with John Major; Peter Lilley on social security; John Gummer on the environment; Sir George Young on transport.

### On the fringe

Today's fringe meetings include: Stephen Dorrell on Europe at the Foreign Affairs Forum; Norman Lamont on Europe at the Guardian debate; Michael Portillo at the Conservative Way Forward group; the European Movement debate between Sir Teddy Taylor and Quentin Davies.

## Beneath the tacky veneer are ideas worth pursuing

Opportunity for All is more than just a conference slogan. The Tories do have an underlying theme, though you could be forgiven for missing it in the deluge of trite Labour-bashing, vacuous flag-waving and contrived "Maggie loves John" photo opportunities. The explanation came from David Willetts, the leadership's in-house ideologue, who has been in the news recently for the exercise of the baser political arts.

For Mr Willetts, the link between this week's various initiatives on education, welfare reform and the like is the promotion of opportunity through social mobility. Speaking at a Conservative Political Centre fringe meeting yesterday, he argued that British society was much more mobile than generally believed or implied by left-wing claims (endorsed by Tony Blair a week ago) of a 30-40-30 division of the secure haves, the insecure haves and the have-nots.

He quoted work by the Institute of Fiscal Studies showing the extent to which people move between social and income groups. For instance, those in the bottom tenth of the income distribution in 1991 saw their average income rise by more than a quarter from £86 to £110 a week over the following twelve months. This is hardly much but it suggests that many at the bottom of the income ladder improved their pos-

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ition. By contrast, some other people fell into this bottom category, but they were not the same ones as the year before. The poor may always be with us, but they are different groups of people each year. Another measure of social mobility is shifts between generations. The IFS has looked at the incomes of both fathers and children. Just a third of those currently in the top fifth of the income scale had fathers in the same band, while a tenth had fathers in the bottom fifth. This is far from total social mobility but it suggests greater movement up and down than is widely assumed.

The key to mobility is education. On that, at least, Mr Blair and the Tories are agreed. The National Child Development Study, based on the experience of all children born in a few weeks in 1958, shows that those with some educational qualifications move up the income scale.

Mr Willetts argues that the role of government is to promote such mobility through the adoption of a free market agenda. He contrasts this with the Labour approach of intervention and regulation, of the social chapter and the like, which have reinforced existing social divisions and has been reflected in high levels of youth unemployment across the Continent. I can already hear rumblings of dissent

from Gordon Brown and "new" Labour policymakers about the importance of social cohesion as an aid to economic growth.

The mobility rather than equality theme links a series of government policy initiatives from the promotion of educational choice and nursery vouchers, the extension of workfare experiments (coupling active counselling with the threat of the withdrawal of benefits) to other welfare-to-work ideas. This approach is broadly accepted across the Tory party.

These ideas amount to more than repetitious jibes about Islington man and woman and the attempt in classic Tory fashion to appeal to "ordinary hard-working men and women" — whether Disraeli's "angels in marble", the affluent workers of the Macmillan era or Thatcher's Essex man. They provide a focus for the Tory programme and an alternative to the more active "enabling" state agenda advocated by both the Blairites and Clintonites and by writers like John Kay in Britain and E.J. Dionne in America. But if *Opportunity for All* is to have a life beyond Bournemouth, the Tories need to flesh out Mr Willetts's ideas — to demonstrate that mobility means opportunity for the insecure have-nots as well as for the secure and aspiring haves.

PETER RIDDELL

## Mawhinney aims for workers' vote

By Philip Webster  
POLITICAL EDITOR

BRIAN MAWHINNEY launched the Tory campaign for the votes of the "hard-working classes" yesterday with a warning that new Labour would mean higher taxes, more strikes, the end of quality schools and the sell-out to a federal Europe.

With Labour and the Tories now convinced that the blue-collar vote could hold the key to the general election, the party chairman delivered the first of a string of conference speeches designed to appeal to

their core values. Dr Mawhinney told his party that while the Tories would be addressing issues of substance which were important to millions of hard-working people, Labour just had "soundbites for the chattering classes."

As part of the campaign party strategists have decided to portray John Major as a man of the people, and contrast him with the public-school-educated Mr Blair, the man more at home with the chattering classes.

"Honest John against Phoney Tony" is one slogan. Another is that while the

Tories favour the "hard-working classes" Labour prefers the "chattering classes, striking classes and shirking classes."

Policies thought to be of most attraction to the working classes such as tackling benefit cheats, bureaucrats and criminals are at the heart of the programme.

Mr Mawhinney won cheers when he described Mr Major as a man "who lives and breathes the decent, practical, sensible beliefs of the British people." He was "the most honest, plain-speaking and straightforward man in Brit-

ish politics — he fought his way from Brixton's streets to Downing Street on the back of his own achievement, his own toughness and the wonderful support of Norma."

Turning to Mr Major he declared: "This man, this tough fighter, this common-sense, compassionate, decent man: this true Brit, this is the best man to be our prime minister."

Mr Mawhinney added that Conservatism was instinctive and that Britain would need its decency, compassion and belief in the individual more than ever in the years ahead.

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# Major's fortunes brighten as Thatcher swings behind him

By ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

NORMA MAJOR may think she is the secret weapon in her husband's life, but she now has a formidable rival in Margaret Thatcher. When the Baroness swept into Bournemouth yesterday she made it clear that, far from being John Major's enemy, she was determined to be his new Stealth bomber.

Paraded around the conference stalls extolling her successor's virtues. Other suitors for Lady Thatcher's hand lay rejected in her wake. She had no time for John Redwood or Michael Portillo, with whom she had former dalliances and made it clear she was not fraternising with Sir James Goldsmith and his Referendum Party.

Gone was the gaunt, haggard look of recent conferences when there were allegations about her son being involved in arms deals, her teeth were aching and she was on a soup diet. She arrived on the conference platform in her favourite kingfisher blue and a deep purple lipstick, which she smeared over Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish Secretary, as he was getting up to speak.

She didn't really understand the jokes about "Hans Christian Mandelson". He was from a different generation. But she just recognised William Hague, the now balding Welsh Secretary, who was sitting beside her and reminisced about the speech he gave in 1977 as a precocious 17-year-old urging her to be more right-wing.

Then John appeared on the platform and she beamed. The Prime Minister even managed an awkward kiss and she patted the seat next to her. He looked as though he couldn't believe his luck. Lady Thatcher even smiled at a glowering Michael Heseltine and nodded to Sir Leon Brittan, who grimaced — both still smarting ten years out of her Cabinet. Lady Thatcher only momentarily forgot her new second lieutenant's position, when Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, attacked Mr Blair's admission that he admired some of her leadership qualities. "Mr Blair, I know Margaret Thatcher. Margaret Thatcher is a friend of mine. Mr Blair, you are no Margaret Thatcher," he said.

She began clapping and stamping her dainty feet. As an aide explained later, this was the real reason she is backing the Prime Minister. "She is horrified at the thought that Tony Blair thinks he can inherit her mantle."

Next she went to a lunch attended by old friends such as her PR guru, Sir Tim Bell, and the MPs Alan Duncan and John Whittingdale. She refused to be disloyal. "It was more of a seminar than a rant," a source said. "She kept asking us to think of ways we could defeat Tony Blair. She was adamant Labour shouldn't lead us into the next millennium and was extremely worried about the consequences for Europe and the Union. She would have made all the Tory rebels feel extremely guilty."

## Howard promises to give courts new range of powers

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary sought to calm Tory fears over law and order yesterday by announcing new legislation to combat crimes ranging from stalking and rape to drug-pushing and persistent juvenile offending.

Michael Howard plans to strengthen the powers of the courts by allowing them to ban criminals from driving, to jail stalkers for up to five years and to name young criminals. He reacted to activists' concerns by making clear that a packed Crime Bill this autumn will underpin Tory moves to make law and order central to the general election campaign.

The move to allow courts to confiscate driving licences from people convicted of non-motoring offences was welcomed by rank-and-file Tories. Mr Howard said that taking away driving licences from people such as thieves, burglars or fine defaulters would act as "a powerful deterrent for many criminals". However, Home Office officials admitted that the radical move is unlikely to be introduced before the election.

He addressed public fears about stalking by confirming that new laws to prevent harassment and molestation will be the Government's priority in the coming months. Ministers are expected to back a Private Member's Bill,

which can become law more quickly than government legislation, introducing a maximum five-year sentence if a person breached a court order preventing them from sending flowers or making persistent telephone calls against someone else's wishes.

A comprehensive package of law and order measures is to be included in the Crime Bill, which will feature in the Queen's Speech. The Bill will also include previously announced measures introducing a minimum sentence of seven years for persistent dealers in hard drugs and automatic life sentences for second-time serious sexual and violent offenders.

Concentrating on the need to prevent drug-pushing, Mr Howard said that many nightclubs were like a magnet for drug-pushers but that they could not be closed down easily even if employees were known to be among the suppliers. Clubs could remain open for up to a year if the owner appealed against having his licence taken away.

In future, when a licence is scrapped because of drugs, the club will shut. Not later than year, but straight away. We can't take any risks with the lives of our children."

Turning to public outrage over lenient sentencing, he pointed to the sentence last month of a rapist who had

been convicted of rape twice before. "Because he wasn't given a life sentence he had to be released. Released again to rape — and he did. That should never happen, and under my sentencing proposals it won't. Criminals like him will get a life sentence automatically."

He criticised the restrictions that prevented courts from naming offenders under the age of 17, even if they persistently offended. "These offenders need to be made to face up to their crimes, their communities and their victims."

He drew enthusiastic applause when he defended the right of parents to smack their children and reiterated his opposition to any attempt by the European Court of Human Rights to outlaw it.

Mr Howard emphasised the importance of anti-crime measures as a pre-election weapon in the face of polling evidence suggesting that Labour had caught up with the Tories as a party trusted on law and order.

"You don't become the party of law and order by calling yourself the party of law and order. You need to stand up for law and order, to take tough action to preserve it and to persevere with that action no matter how rough the going gets. On all these tests, Labour have failed, failed and failed again."



Beef farmers calling for the resignation of Douglas Hogg, below left, outside the conference hall in Bournemouth yesterday

## £45m aid fails to placate farmers

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

ALMOST a thousand farmers gathered at the conference in Bournemouth yesterday to protest at the Government's handling of the BSE crisis.

Despite a pledge by Douglas Hogg to give the beef industry an extra compensation package worth £45 million, farmers left the demonstration dissatisfied

with the Agriculture Minister's performance. Many called for his resignation.

John Major cleared time to hold talks with farmers' leaders and promised to do everything he could to ease their problems. But while farmers said the 1½-hour meeting had been useful, they said their patience was exhausted and demanded further action.

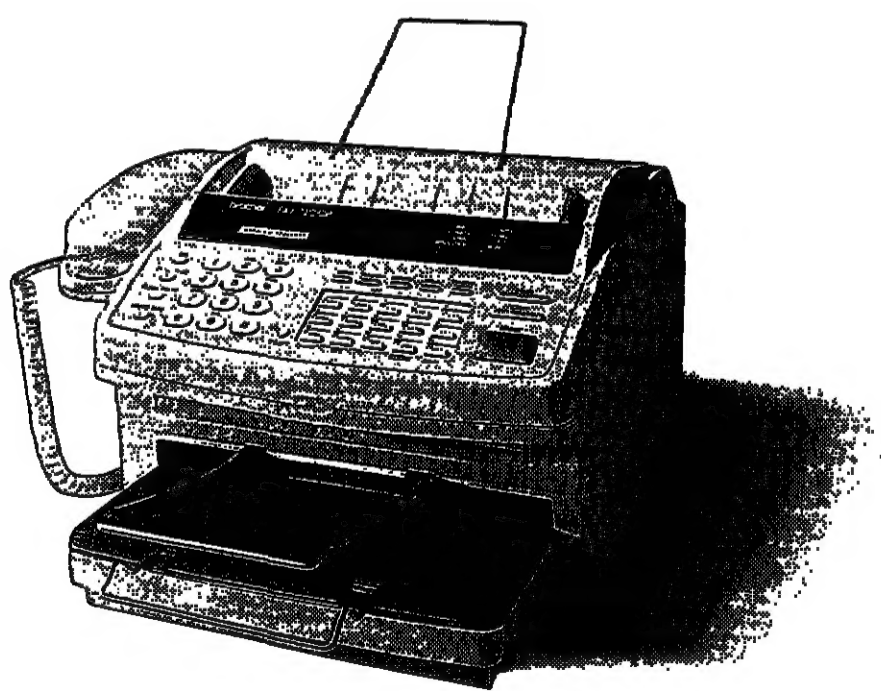
The Prime Minister, who met Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, and a small group of farmers, said: "I absolutely understand why there are so many farmers out there today and sympathise with their position."

Sir David said: "We have been patient but our patience is exhausted. We need now to see our actions which we have put to the Prime Minister brought to bear."

One key farmers' demand is a restoration of the basic compensation price for each cow slaughtered, which was cut from an average of £500 per cow to £450 ten days ago.

Outside the conference hall, farmers were sceptical. A sea of banners and placards declared: "Fire that chinless Hogg now", and "No more Hogg-wash".

Inside, farmers said no one had fought as hard for the industry as Mr Hogg.



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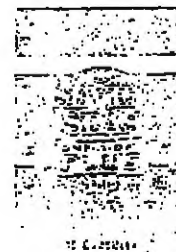
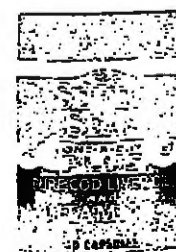
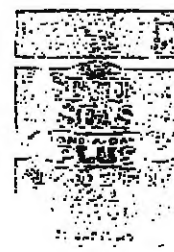
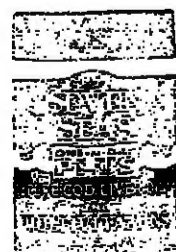
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Decline in ordinands means 4,000 parishes are likely to have no full-time priest by 2000

# Church of England faces recruitment crisis

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

LARGE parts of Britain face a future without a full-time parish priest, according to a report which discloses a recruitment crisis in the Church of England.

The report forecasts that by 2001 the number of full-time male clergy will have fallen by 1,175 to 8,007. The number of women being ordained will not compensate for the shortfall, with the current total increasing by 99 to 963.

According to the report, there will be about 9,000 full-time men and women priests in the Church by the turn of the century, leaving at least 4,000 parishes without a minister.

But not all those 9,000 will be full-time parish priests because, as now, more than 600 will work in administrative or cathedral jobs. Already, many parishes have been combined into team or group ministries and this trend is likely to continue.

The report, *Numbers in Ministry 1996*, discloses a slump in vocations since the General Synod voted to ordain women priests in 1992. Three theological colleges have closed and numbers at others are down by more than half. This year, 210 men and 81 women are expected to complete their training and enter full-time stipendiary ministry. By next year the numbers will fall to 190 men and 65 women.

The decline mirrors that which

has already taken place in the Roman Catholic Church and suggests that ordaining married or women priests might not be the answer to the Churches' recruitment difficulties. One of the most surprising revelations in the report is that, after the first flush of ordinations of women priests, hardly any new women are entering the full-time ministry.

Church of England dioceses are responding to the shortfall by recruiting increasing numbers of unpaid clergy to take services on Sundays. But many of these have other work and are not available for priestly duties such as visiting, writing parish magazines or managing parish affairs. Many church

leaders fear the decline heralds a nationwide change in the pattern of the Church's ministry. They are concerned that the increasing reliance on non-stipendiary priests is denting the principle that a priest be available to all in every parish.

The figures also show a fall in the number of clergy who enjoy the traditional parson's freehold, or a job for life. Increasingly they are being made priest-in-charge, assistant curate or team vicar, operating on a bishop's licence only, which means that they can be dismissed without notice.

There has also been a severe erosion of the Church's catholic wing in the wake of the decision to ordain women priests, with a cor-

responding trend towards the evangelical and liberal tendencies. The number of traditionalists on parson's freehold has fallen to about 20 since the vote to ordain women.

The changes come at a time when increasing numbers of clergy are reaching retirement age or leaving the ministry. In 1995, 338 retired and 236 left for other reasons. One knock-on effect will be that, although the cost of stipends will fall, the burden of pensions will increase.

Chichester, Lincoln and Salisbury and Wells theological colleges have shut and Yorkshire's Mirfield College of the Resurrection, a training ground for the catholic wing, has eight students completing their

training this year and seven in 1997. The report notes that ordinands now have little difficulty in finding jobs. Last year, all the new priests were successfully ordained into parish jobs.

The report will be discussed by the synod when it meets next month. The Rev Stephen Trotter, of the MSP union's clergy section, said: "It is clearly going to encourage bishops and dioceses to think in terms of using more non-stipendiary clergy. I suspect that this will result in a reduced quality of clergy being available to the parishes. The whole point of parish ministry is that a priest should be available, and non-stipendiary clergy are generally not available, except for services."

## Drugs cash accused in court

John Gilligan, 44, of Dublin, was remanded in custody for eight days by magistrates at Uxbridge yesterday, charged with an offence under the Drug Trafficking Act. Mr Gilligan is accused of concealing money, representing the proceeds of drug trafficking, for the purpose of avoiding prosecution.

## Designer arrests

Fake designer clothing worth more than £2 million has been seized in raids by police and trading standards officers on homes and warehouses in Essex and east London. Five men were arrested.

## Asthma advice

Information cards are to be distributed to asthma sufferers to help them to spot symptoms and manage their condition. The Department of Health is sending over 130,000 cards to GPs to be given out at check-ups.

## Ford milestone

A Fiesta 1.4 Ghia became the ten millionth vehicle to be made by Ford at Dagenham as the company celebrated the production of 250 million vehicles worldwide. The first Dagenham Ford was a Model A truck, made in 1931.

## Cell stabbing

A police officer was in a serious condition in hospital after being stabbed by a prisoner as he escorted him to a cell. PC Bill Bolan, 37, was stabbed in the shoulder and thigh at Bridewell police station, Liverpool.

## Sunday sailing

A ferry company is planning to start Sunday sailings to the last Hebridean islands where observance of the Sabbath has prevented a service. Calsonic MacBrayne aims to begin sailings to the Isles of Lewis and Harris in 1998.

## Timely reminder

British Summer Time will end at 2am on Sunday, October 27, when clocks should be put back one hour to last, Greenwich Mean Time.

## Bishop and lover emerge from hiding to apologise

By KATE ALDERSON

THE former bishop, Roderick Wright, and his lover Kathleen Macphee emerged from their Lakeland hideaway yesterday to apologise for the "sadness and pain" caused since they ran away together more than four weeks ago.

Mr Wright, 56, and Miss Macphee, 41, a divorcee, held a news conference in the back garden of their rented terrace house in Kendal, in the hope that their first public appearance together would end the media presence outside their house.

The former Roman Catholic bishop and Miss Macphee have spent the past two weeks on the Continent, trying to escape the controversy which has followed them since they ran away together and sold their story to the *News of the World*. Earlier yesterday, in newspaper interviews, the couple disclosed that they had consummated their relationship and were to marry.

Mr Wright, reading from the typed statement, said: "We wish to apologise, especially to our families who have suffered so much, not only because of the manner of our leaving, but because of the intense pressure placed upon them by the media. We also wish to apologise to the Catholic Church, in Scotland in particular and especially to the priests and people of Argyll and the Isles."

He added: "We are in love and intend to marry but at this moment we are living from day to day and we do not yet know when that will be."

The couple said they were concerned by the portrayals of Miss Macphee's relationship with her three children, aged 24, 18, and 15, whom she had left in her home in Fort William, Highland, to be with the bishop. "She has a close and loving relationship with them all and that will continue," the statement said. "They are fully supportive of her."

Mr Wright said he was not



Hand in hand, Roderick Wright and Kathleen Macphee climb the steps from their Lakeland house yesterday. The former bishop read a statement

currently looking for work, adding that he had no idea what the future held. The pair intended "living our Catholic faith as best we can" and the former bishop said he would miss his vocation as a priest. "We both accept the Church's law and have no criticism to make," he added. He said he had not accepted money from any newspaper but his lover said she had accepted "a small

amount" from the *News of the World* on behalf of her children. However, she had yet to receive the money and was not certain she would accept it.

When asked if it had all been worth it, Mr Wright said: "In one sense yes. Our main sadness and pain is what we caused in the lives of others."

He was asked if he accepted the charge that they had betrayed the Church and re-

plied: "In a sense, yes, and that is something I feel very sad about. Betrayal, in a sense, of leaving the vocation which I had chosen and lived so many years of my life."

He said he accepted the church's laws on celibacy — "I make no further comment on that. I make no excuses" — and added that he and Miss Macphee wished they had handled things differently. "In

a way we went backwards instead of forwards, but it spiralled into something neither of us ever expected."

Mr Wright said he had not spoken to his illegitimate son, Kevin Whibley, 15, but planned to when it was "appropriate to both of us".

Finally, the couple were asked why they had chosen Kendal as a hideaway. "We thought it would be a nice

quiet place," Mr Wright replied.

The Catholic Church in Scotland issued a cold response to the apology. Father Tom Connolly, Catholic Church spokesman, said: "It would be lacking in courtesy to say anything via the media. He has not been in touch with us. If the bishop wants us to say something he can always get in touch."

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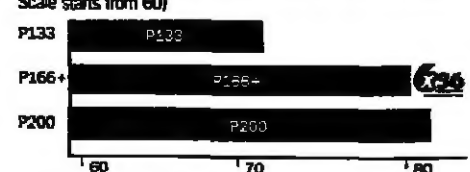


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## Fooled by fallible pregnancy test



Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE story of the pregnancy which was not diagnosed has been told this week in the *High Court* and will remind all older doctors of the difficulties faced before modern pregnancy diagnostic tests became available at every chemist.

Maureen Flynn of Clapham, giving evidence about her pregnancy, said that in 1989, aged 39, she was taking the mini Pill. Even so, when she missed two periods she went to see her doctor, who said the most likely reason was the emotional upset she felt after her eldest son ran away from home.

Routine pregnancy tests were carried out but were apparently negative. Mrs Flynn returned a month later to report that she still had not had a period, that she thought she was pregnant, that she was feeling abnormally tired, that her abdomen was so swollen her skirt would not do up and that she was experiencing numbness in her hands. By her fourth visit the patient was also suffering from indigestion and excessive wind. The doctor, presumably misled by a series of apparently negative pregnancy tests and the patient's history of taking the mini Pill regularly, still dismissed the thought of pregnancy and gave her a tip.

Rejecting the standard indigestion mixtures suggested in the British National Formu-

lary, he recommended that there was nothing like a good curry to settle wind. The doctor's experience of curry houses is unusual, as most lovers of vindaloo find that it is guaranteed to produce rather than cure flatulence. Eventually, Mrs Flynn's pregnancy was diagnosed by ultrasound, but not before its presence had also been missed by doctors on her first visit to the local teaching hospital.

Although doctors used to pride themselves on their ability to detect early pregnancy without diagnostic kits, mistakes were often made. Diagnosis rested on the appearance and feel of the breasts, as well as by taking a careful history.

Even before the enlarging uterus could be felt suspicions would have been triggered by the patient's increasing girth. This is because abdominal bloating is a feature of early pregnancy and is caused by the softening of the muscles, brought on by hormonal changes. Tingling in the hands can result from the effect of the weight of the enlarging breasts pulling on the nerves in the neck.

The old adage that every woman between 15 and 50 who misses a period is pregnant unless proved otherwise is still a good one. Contrary to popular belief, pregnancy tests can give false and equivocal results, particularly if the urine is contaminated.

## Hospitals 'ignore' clot risk

FEWER than half of high-risk patients undergoing surgery are given anti-blood clotting drugs that could save their lives, says a report published today (Jeremy Lawrence writes).

More than 3,000 cases of blood clots in the lungs would be avoided and 400 lives saved if all patients at high risk were given the drugs,

says the report by the Office of Health Economics, funded by the pharmaceutical industry. The report says the cost of treating patients with deep-vein thromboses and pulmonary embolism was between £205 and £223 million in 1993: if all patients at high risk were given preventive drugs, the saving to the NHS could be as much as £32 million.

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## Dole tries to lure voters with offer of post for Powell

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, desperate to boost his electoral appeal, is expected shortly to announce that Colin Powell will join his Cabinet if he wins the White House.

"I've discussed this generally with General Powell," the Republican presidential nominee said in an interview on Tuesday. He had not promised the hugely popular Gulf War hero a specific job, but "what I might do is indicate some of the people who would be in a Dole administration without specific titles".

Mr Dole said he had also talked to James Baker and William Bennett, former Secretaries of State and Education, about cabinet posts. The aim of such an unorthodox pre-election announcement would be to draw "a contrast between the people Bob Dole might choose and the people that Bill Clinton has chosen", so Americans could vote more for a team

than an individual. Mr Dole had breakfast privately with General Powell in Washington last week, triggering speculation that he would name the general as his presumptive Secretary of State during Sunday night's presidential debate with Mr Clinton.

That did not happen, but Mr Dole has another opportunity tomorrow when General Powell is expected to campaign with him in Ohio.

The general, America's favourite public figure, retired as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff in 1993, refused the post of Secretary of State when President Clinton offered it in 1994, and joined the Republican Party in 1995 after deciding not to run for president.

Four weeks before polling day, Mr Dole's plight was summed up yesterday by a *Newsweek* cover story headlined "Is It Over?", and by the fact that tonight's vice-presidential debate between Al

Gore and Jack Kemp is being widely portrayed as the first presidential debate of the next election rather than a key event in this one.

Mr Gore is clearly Mr Clinton's heir-apparent. Mr Kemp has equally clearly secured the inside track for the Republican nomination with his effervescent performances on the campaign trail.

One American commentator labelled the encounter in St Petersburg, Florida, a "break preview of the first presidential campaign of the 21st century", and the two will undoubtedly seek to use the 90 minutes of priceless prime-time exposure to advance their own causes as well as their bosses.

Mr Gore and Mr Kemp are good friends. They were fellow congressmen for several years, and both unsuccessfully sought their parties' nominations in 1988. But stylistically they are polar opposites.

## Weizman offers olive branch to Arafat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S President Weizman yesterday hosted Yasser Arafat at his private seaside villa and announced that he would visit Egypt next week to patch-up differences with President Mubarak.

After talks and an al fresco lunch at which an olive branch was laid symbolically beside each of their plates, the Israeli leader and President of the Palestinian Authority gave a surprisingly conciliatory news conference at which Mr Arafat pledged he had given a "permanent order" to his policemen never again to fire on Israeli troops.

Mr Weizman denied that yesterday's meeting — and Mr Arafat's first official trip to the Jewish state — had been called to circumvent Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, who is widely perceived in the Arab world as a warmonger.

But the talks in Caesarea, immediately provoked controversy. Nissim Zivli, secretary-general of the opposition



Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, on his first official visit to Israel yesterday, lunches with President Weizman

Labour Party, claimed the meeting was "an expression of no confidence in the Prime Minister".

Some right-wing supporters of Mr Netanyahu condemned the talks conducted by Mr Weizman, whose constitutional position is largely symbolic but who exerts considerable

influence among ordinary Israelis.

Hanan Porat, a member of the National Religious Party, a member of the ruling Likud-led coalition, said the talks were a "grave and regrettable step", adding that Mr Weizman could have established from Israeli intelligence

that Mr Arafat had personally played a part in inciting the recent attacks which left 15 Israelis and 68 Palestinians dead.

Hours earlier, Palestinian and Israeli negotiators meeting at the Erez crossing had clashed over Israeli proposals for new security provisions.

The US envoy Dennis Ross had to intervene to bring the Palestinians back to the table. ☐ Kuwait: The opposition lost its domination of parliament in Monday's elections with pro-government deputies securing a majority. (Reuters)

Letters, page 19

## Loyalist refugees stake claim on US land lost in 1792

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TWO centuries after the muskets of their ancestors fell silent, the descendants of British Loyalists who fled for Canada after the War of Independence are again fighting against their American brethren.

John Godfrey and Peter Milliken, both Canadian parliamentarians who can trace their heritage to the American revolution, are co-sponsoring a private member's Bill that aims to redress the apparent failure of a famous 18th century treaty to compensate Loyalists who lost their land and assets after the war.

Employing the same rules defined by the Clinton Administration in showing its distress over American property losses in Cuba, the two men believe their legislation will highlight the indifference of the US Government to the confiscated Loyalist lands. The Helms-Burton Act, signed into law by President Clinton earlier this year, provoked widespread criticism from Britain, Canada and other allies for its plans to punish any foreign company dealing in property commandeered after the Cuban revolution.

"I have tried to mimic in every detail the language, rhetoric and logic of Helms-Burton," said Mr Godfrey. "We are separated by a couple of hundred years but I am a historian and frankly the precedent is the same." Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, both

America and Britain agreed that individual states should be urged to give back land plundered from Loyalists. Various commissions were set up and commercial debts owed to British merchants were settled, but the land issue has remained outstanding ever since, and most of those who tried to reclaim property were unceremoniously thrown into jail.

Mr Godfrey, for example, believes he is entitled to Carter's Grove, a sprawling home near Williamsburg in Virginia. Mr Milliken claims the rights to a large swath of the Mohawk Valley. Other Loyalist descendants, contacted by Mr Godfrey via the Internet, seem to remember that their forebears fled what is now extremely valuable property in central Manhattan, Philadelphia, Boston

### Loyalist descendants claim land in Manhattan, Philadelphia and Boston

and large parts of North Carolina, the home state of Jesse Helms, author of the anti-Cuba legislation.

Neither MP is hopeful that their carefully crafted work will secure passage through the Parliament in Ottawa, but they believe a serious political point is being made.

If it were to become law, however, the Act would have one immediate and amusing side-effect. Mr Clinton, his wife Hillary and their daughter, Chelsea, would be barred from visiting Canada for "trafficking" in 700 acres of downtown Washington formerly owned by defenders of the British Crown.

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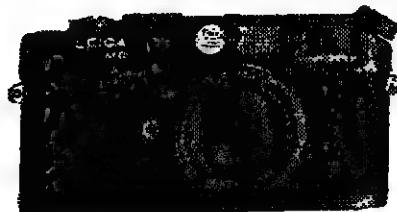
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# Four die as world's biggest cargo jet crashes on village

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FOUR people were killed and more were feared dead yesterday when a Russian Antonov 124 transport plane crashed half a mile short of Turin airport in driving rain, ploughing through a farmhouse and leaving a trail of devastation in its wake.

Police said the identity of those killed was still unclear but they appear to include the pilot and co-pilot, and two villagers who were in the farmhouse at the time of the crash. Fifteen people were taken to hospital, mostly surviving members of the estimated 24-man Russian crew who escaped from the blazing plane on an evacuation shuttle. Two are badly hurt and one is in a coma.

The Antonov 124 — the world's largest cargo plane — was leased to a Russian company, Ayaks Cargo, by Aeroflot, and chartered by Aviation Consultants, a British-based air cargo broker. The crew



was also hired from Aeroflot. Witnesses said the huge cargo plane, which was due to pick up a consignment of Ferrari cars at Turin for sale in the Gulf and Brunet, was approaching the airport at Caselle when the tragedy occurred. The pilot had aborted his first attempt at landing and was trying to gain height before making a second attempt when the plane's lowered undercarriage struck rooftops and ploughed into a two-storey building in San

Francesco al Campo, a village of 2,000 people. One witness said he heard a crash and "saw the tail of the plane sticking out of the house".

He said two crewmen emerged from the plane and staggered towards him in a confused state, asking him in English to call an ambulance.

After hitting the buildings the plane careered across a field and came to rest on a road leading out of the village towards the local cemetery.

Helicopters ferried the injured to hospital as the emergency services continued to search through the smouldering wreckage. Turin airport was closed for several hours because of the risk of an explosion, and because all the airport fire tenders were at the scene of the disaster. A team of Russian aviation investigators left Moscow for Turin to examine the wreckage and establish the cause of the disaster.



Firefighters attend the smouldering wreckage of the Antonov 124 which crashed into a village on the outskirts of Turin airport yesterday

## Surgeons say Pope is free of tumours

By RICHARD OWEN

THE POPE'S doctors said yesterday that they found no evidence of tumours or other complications during a 50-minute "textbook" operation to remove his appendix.

Professor Francesco Crucitti, who performed the surgery, said the Pope could be back on his feet by today and should be able to leave hospital early next week. However, the professor repeatedly evaded saying if the Pope has a form of Parkinson's disease, saying neurology was not his field.

The impression left by the controversy over the Pope's health is that, at 76, he is a shadow of the vigorous Polish cardinal who became pontiff 18 years ago and that the struggle to succeed him has already begun. "If I may venture an opinion, I think the Holy Father should rest more," Professor Crucitti said.

La Repubblica said simply: "The Pope has ... gone round the world 24 times. He is tired."

The Pope's facial muscles are rigid, he snores and his left hand trembles violently — all possible symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Joaquin Navarro Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said that, before his operation, the Pope prayed in the chapel in the papal suite at the Gemelli hospital and said Mass with Stanislaw Dziwisz, his private secretary. When he regained consciousness he greeted his doctors and thanked them.



Crucitti: urged rest

## Germany's carnivores turn to soy schnitzels

FROM ROGER BOWEN IN BONN

GERMANS, once the carnivores of Europe, are turning into vegetarians.

That is official, according to the German Vegan Society yesterday. It calculates that a fifth of the nation now eats little or no meat. Political analysts are wondering if this will have a long-term impact on the electoral prospects of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

The shift in eating habits, which contrasts with Herr Kohl's famed pig-stomach menus, has been prompted in part by fear of "mad cow" disease, although meat-eating has been in decline since the late 1980s. But vegetarianism marks more than a change of diet. It is the beginning of the end of a national obsession.

No political rally is complete without sausages; no wedding, christening or funeral is authentic without a banquet of hams or pork knuckles. Children feel betrayed if their lunch pack does not contain a sandwich with pork or beef dripping. Teenagers fall in love over beefburgers.

The marriage of Gerhard Schröder, the Lower Saxony prime minister, and likely challenger to Herr Kohl in 1998, fell apart partly because his wife was a militant vegetarian. The politician used to have his chauffeur stop at sausage stands on the way to work to catch up with his meat intake. When he started to live with a young carnivorous journalist, public sympathy swung behind him.

Until recently, every man, woman and child in Germany consumed 50lb of sausages a year. Now, however, Germans are searching for interesting ways of eating Brussels sprouts and broccoli. The biggest growth is in part-time vegetarianism, dropping meat consumption to once or twice a week.

People aged under 39 bought a third less meat last year than in the year before. Hareico, a well known sausage and meat manufacturer, has added soy sausages and soy nuggets to its range. Karl-Georg Ferber, the product manager, said: "I believe in the future of veggie schnitzels and burgers."

# THE INTERNET DOESN'T WORK

# INTERNet<sup>2</sup>

## THE NEXT GENERATION

# DOES

## Wines fetch record £2.5m at US auction

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

BIDDERS paid a record \$3.96 million (£2.55 million) at a New York wine auction, including \$81,700 for a case of 1945 Chateau Mouton-Rothschild.

The previous record for a wine auction was \$2.4 million at Christie's in London in 1994. Fritz Hatton, for Christie's, said: "The enormous scope of this sale proves how demand for great wine currently exceeds supply."

Mr Hatton, who recently tasted some of the 1945 Mouton-Rothschild, described it as "something beyond wine — very rich, with a bouquet that hovers a foot above the glass". It was not known if the anonymous buyer would be drinking his purchase, which

probably still has another 20 to 50 years to go before it turns.

Wines at the auction included six magnums of 1961 Petrus (sold for \$37,500), an imperiale of 1924 Mouton-Rothschild (\$55,300) and five large-format bottles of a 1985 Stag's Leap "Cask 23" Cabernet Sauvignon, which sold for \$39,100. That was a record for a single lot of California wine.

The auction suggested, Mr Hatton said, that top-growth clarets, particularly from 1982, 1986 and 1990, would continue to rise in value. New World wine has generally been a less popular investment, but the very best "may be placed in the same pantheon as great Bordeaux".







# Afghan warlord halts advance of Taleban forces

FIGHTING broke out for the first time last night between the Taleban Islamic militia and the forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord who controls six northern Afghan provinces. There were reports that one city controlled by the Taleban might have fallen.

This means Taleban, already thinly spread, is battling on two fronts. Its spectacular military advance seems finally to have been halted.

There seems some possibility of a military link-up between General Dostum's 20,000 men and the forces of the old Kabul Government ousted by Taleban nearly two weeks ago. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former President, who fled north as the invaders closed in, has met the general in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif. The two men, former enemies, hugged publicly.

Taleban is continuing its assault on the vanquished government forces, who have retreated to their Panjshir Valley base. A few miles away, at the Salang Pass, Taleban troops were confronted by



Christopher Thomas writes from Kabul that the Taleban militia, already thinly spread, is battling on two fronts

General Dostum's forces yesterday south of the strategic Salang tunnel, the gateway from the north to the south. A combined assault against Taleban could drive the fighters back to Kabul, which could conceivably fall if the two sides linked up. Reports last night suggested that the city of Jalalabad, a few miles south of the Salang tunnel, could have fallen to the warlord's forces. This would be a serious blow to Taleban, which has used the city as a base for its troops. The loss of Jalalabad would cut off the supply lines to its forces in the Panjshir, forcing them to withdraw.

The tunnel is firmly under General Dostum's control and he has massive troop deployments at its northern mouth to stop Taleban breaking through. Last week he estab-

lished a small presence south of the tunnel, which sat uneasily alongside heavy concentrations of Taleban, who insisted in negotiations that he must give up control of the north and allow Afghanistan to be united. Taleban commanders boasted that unless he laid down his weapons he would be attacked. He has now preempted Taleban and late last night it appeared that fighting was intense.

The general has huge resources, including fighter planes and long-range weapons. He is hated by Taleban because he was a commander in the former Communist regime, ousted by American-backed Mujahidin in April, 1992. He has a reputation for brutality. General Dostum may merely be trying to clear the area south of the Salang

tunnel to secure his northern bases. The Salang highway, which connects Kabul to Dostum's headquarters in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, is a vital all-weather road. With snow already falling in the north, control of the road — and especially the tunnel — is vital.

Mr Rabbani said in a satellite television interview with Iranian television that he was rallying forces to try to drive the Taleban out of the north. This latest twist of events ensures that war will continue in Afghanistan, which has not seen peace for 17 years. The assault on the Panjshir Valley,

intense for the first few days after it started last Saturday, now seems almost lackadaisical, perhaps reflecting Taleban's growing fear that it is overstretched.

The forces of General Ahmed Shah Masood, military chief of the ousted regime, have started wearing old East

German winter military uniforms, bought cheaply on the open market, giving them a distinct advantage over the ill-equipped Taleban enemy as the temperature plunges. Artillery bombardment can continue throughout the winter, but Taleban will be hard-pressed to sustain the kind of

infantry operation that would be necessary to overwhelm the Panjshir when there are several feet of snow.

Mr Rabbani has been trying to set up a meeting with General Dostum. They have spoken on their satellite telephones and envoys from both sides have had direct talks.

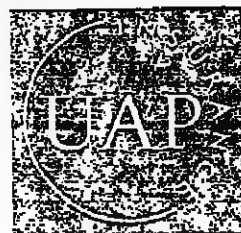


Members of the Taleban militia watch yesterday as one of their helicopters attacks the forces of the ousted Afghan regime in the Panjshir Valley

The people who insure the courier also insure the building.

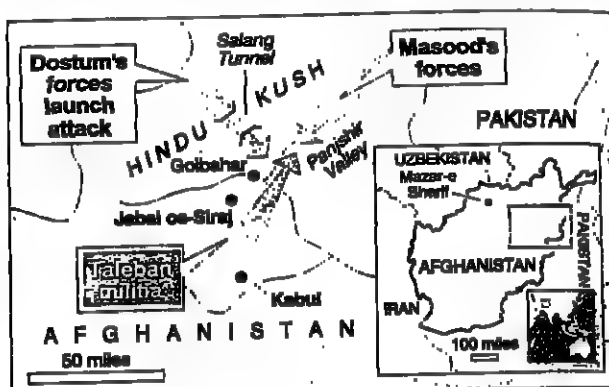


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## Aid agencies push mullahs to relax policy on women

By Christopher Thomas

INTERNATIONAL aid agencies in Afghanistan warned the Taleban Islamic regime yesterday to relax its severe restrictions on women, which have disrupted humanitarian work and halted crucial aid projects. Afghanistan is now probably the world's poorest country, without resources to help itself.

The hostility of aid organisations to Taleban has stunned its six-man ruling shura (council), made up of hardline mullahs who have closed girls' schools and ordered women to stay at home except when shopping. The council has also been shaken by a warning from America that Taleban cannot expect to receive international recognition or foreign aid while it continues its extremist policies against women.

Oxfam, the British aid organisation, has suspended its Kabul operations until women are allowed to work. As a last resort Oxfam would withdraw from the capital. "Women would like to fight this but they are not confident enough to go on the streets," Sue Emmott, Oxfam's country representative, said. "They will not accept this. They are very angry."

Aid agencies yesterday met Mullah Muhammad Ghous, Taleban's acting Foreign Minister, to submit a joint request for women to be allowed to work. He appealed to them not to force Afghanistan to adopt ways of life that were "contrary to our national traditions".

During the private, 90-minute meeting he declared that on his visits to the West he had been saddened by the sight of women who worked in hotels. They had seemed tired. At home, he went on,

men looked after their women property. He found it astonishing that the West could accuse Afghanistan of discriminating against them.

His remarks left the aid workers agog. However, he did promise to raise the issue of women's rights at a full meeting of the shura.

Mullah Ghous went on to say that Taleban planned in due course to remove its troops from Kabul and put police in charge. Until the soldiers were moved it was safer for women to remain at home. He went on to insist that Taleban favoured education for both women and men.

International pressure on the mullahs to modify their hardline policies towards women is intensifying. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, issued a warning that there could be "serious repercussions" — a hint that the UN might halt relief programmes unless women were allowed to work. This is difficult ground for the UN, which works with hardline Islamic regimes in the Middle East and Africa.

Care, which receives substantial British aid, has suspended half its programmes, including a sanitation and hygiene programme for women, because it no longer has any Afghan female employees to work with them.

Taleban has agreed to meet foreign aid agencies again in a week to give its response. The mullahs who now run most of Afghanistan are accustomed to Kabul's comparatively liberal traditions and appear surprised at public resistance to a system that is normal in the countryside.

Leading article, page 19

## Turkish leader flies into new controversy

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

TURKEY'S Islamist Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, yesterday met General Sani Abacha, the military ruler of Nigeria, on the last stop of a controversial tour of pariah nations that has outraged Turkey's Western allies and many Turkish politicians.

Mr Erbakan arrived from Libya after a disastrous visit that ended in sharp criticism by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Turkey's policy towards the Kurds. Mr Erbakan said Turkey would step up its imports of Nigerian liquefied natural gas. He took four ministers with him to discuss a draft protocol to boost Turk-

ish trade, exchanges and tourism with Nigeria.

Mr Erbakan's visit to Nigeria, with its large Muslim population, follows another controversial visit to Iran which, like Libya, is subject to American sanctions. Nigeria has been suspended from the Commonwealth because of its poor record on human rights and democracy. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, on Monday sought support from the Commonwealth for sanctions on Nigeria.

Mr Erbakan's visits have led to calls in Turkey for his resignation.



# Bus conductor is guide on Peking's route to reform

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA'S leaders have enlisted the help of a Peking bus conductor to boost their drive for "spiritual civilisation".

The Communist Party central committee has begun a key meeting behind closed doors to codify the new creed in an effort to fill an ideological vacuum left by economic reforms and the abandonment of socialist values.

The ideas are embodied by Li Shuli, a bus conductor on Peking's route 21, who is being held up as an example of the people.

There is nothing spiritual about "spiritual civilisation" in a state run by an officially atheist party. However, they are the watchwords of Jiang Zemin, 70, the President and party boss and de facto ruler of China, who wants to solidify his position as heir to Deng Xiaoping, 92, the ailing paramount leader who has not been seen publicly for more than two years.

A crackdown on religion has been taking place as the spiritual civilisation drive gets under way. In the days leading up to the annual plenum of the party elite, the People's Daily, the party's flagship, and other newspapers have been using an old Maoist tactic to try to win peoples' hearts and minds: that of singing the praises of supposed model workers like Miss Li, dedicated plumbers, selfless well-diggers and model tax collectors.

"The aim is to make a more civilised, responsible China," one Chinese official says.

The trouble is, China is now a society where Peking taxi drivers listen to country and western music in their cabs and where the elite send their children to Western universities. It is a land of cellular telephones, computers, karaoke, sex for sale, corruption, crime, and worship of money. "Chinese are growing up,"

said a Western envoy. "Model workers were fine for the 60s. Now people just laugh up their sleeves."

Most of all, they snigger at Miss Li, who is said to get up at 4am each day to study Peking bus routes so she can smilingly help bamboozled passengers. Unfortunately, as everybody here knows, Peking dummies are models of gruff bullying and shrill yelling at passengers.

Not that a more civilised China would not be welcome: a foreign diner who entered the lavatories at a popular Chinese restaurant here on Monday found a chef urinating in the hand basin.

The plenum will approve a document on "building a spiritual civilisation", detailing its aim of creating not just a richer Chinese citizen but a new man, better morally and stronger spiritually, and in a cleaner, safer and quieter environment.



Supporters of the opposition New Frontier Party waving to their leader, Ichiro Ozawa, as he sets off on a bus at the start of his campaign

## Japanese election bandwagon gets under way

Tokyo: On the first day of Japan's election campaign Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, yesterday promised to reinvigorate the economy and trim a bloated bureaucracy if his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is returned to power on October 20 (Robert Whymant writes).

Opinion polls show that the LDP, the largest of three parties in the ruling coalition, has the highest level of support, with a clear lead over the Shinshinto, the biggest opposition group. But it appears unlikely that the Liberal Democrats can muster the 251 seats required for an absolute majority. And while he is riding high nationally, Mr Hashimoto might suffer the ignominy of defeat in his own constituency.

The election is the first to be held under new rules in which each constituency has only one representative rather than several. Two hundred seats of the 500 at stake will be decided by proportional representation. A real fight is developing between

Mr Hashimoto and a former Agriculture Minister, Mutsuki Kato, who is running under the banner of the opposition Shinshinto. "You may feel it is unthinkable for the Prime Minister to be defeated," Mr Hashimoto's brother, Daijiro, told supporters. "But the unthinkable can happen with this new system."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kiss of life thwarts suicide

Madrid: A Spanish ambulance worker yesterday lured a man back from the brink of a messy suicide by giving him the kind of kiss of life not found in medical manuals (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Carmen Montiel tried for more than an hour to talk a young man from throwing himself off a city viaduct. When all her efforts appeared to have failed she said: "If you have to jump, won't you kiss me before you go?" As he leant over to kiss her, she pulled him from the edge.

#### UN cuts jobs

Geneva: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has decided to shed 250 posts at its headquarters here and to stop recruiting people outside the agency in a cost-cutting drive. (AFP)

#### Rebels kill nine

Muslim guerrillas attacked a bus killing nine people in the southern Algerian town of Kas el-Hirane. In a separate incident, a teenager was killed in a grenade attack on a school. (Reuters)

#### Pupil shot dead

Brussels: A 15-year-old burst into his school classroom in Brussels and shot dead a 14-year-old classmate with an automatic pistol after the two had an argument in the playground. (Reuters)

#### Guerrillas defect

Battambang: Hundreds of hardline Khmer Rouge guerrillas have agreed to join Cambodian government forces in another blow to the weakening Maoist faction led by Pol Pot. (Reuters)

## Bermuda stands by to repel illegal migrants

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

BERMUDA'S military force has been put on standby for the first time in ten years after a cargo ship packed with Chinese migrants hit trouble at sea.

The Canton-registered *Xing Da*, carrying suspected would-be illegal immigrants to America, was towed to Bermuda after her engine failed 140 miles west of the British dependent territory.

Waiting ashore, boots polished and muscles flexed, were 100 members of the Bermuda Regiment, delighted to have been called to arms by their commander-in-chief and Governor, Lord Waddington, Home Secretary in the final Thatcher government.

The 600-strong part-time regiment's last taste of action

was in 1987, when its infantry joined in the clean-up after Hurricane Emily.

Its mission yesterday was to ensure that none of the Chinese disembarked from the ship, which berthed at the sheltered Murray's Anchorage two miles offshore. The ship was towed to Bermuda waters by a US Coast Guard cutter, after her engineers failed to restart the vessel's engines. When a seasonal low front whipped up dangerous seas, it was decided to seek sanctuary.

There were reports of undisciplined behaviour aboard the 22ft *Xing Da* and a plot by some of the 26 crew, who were said to include Triad gang members, to scuttle the ship. The 83 passengers had suffered a storm-tossed few days, but the men of the Bermuda Regiment, steadfast in their trademark short trousers, were there to ensure none made it to land.

A one-mile no-go area around the *Xing Da* was enforced by Bermuda government patrol boats and it was made clear that if the passengers had to go ashore because of the weather, they would immediately be flown off the island.

## Chinese rearrest pro-Tibet dissident

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THE veteran pro-democracy activist and literary critic Liu Xiaobo, who recently called for press freedom and Chinese government talks with the Dalai Lama of Tibet, was detained yesterday after police ransacked his home and confiscated documents, family members said.

"They turned the place upside down and took everything," one relative said, adding that the police, who had a search warrant, had carried away books, photographs, documents and articles Mr Liu had written.

They gave no reason for the detention of Mr Liu, who gained prominence during the 1989 student-led pro-democracy movement that was violently suppressed by the army in Tiananmen Square.

Mr Liu was held by the police last year after orchestrating several outspoken petitions to parliament by groups of dissidents and intellectuals. He was held for more than seven months without charge until being released last January. In recent months he had sent open letters to the Government demanding press freedom and calling for talks with the Dalai Lama, who is accused by Peking of being a "splittist of the motherland".

Relatives said that the police did not say when Mr Liu might be released.

□ Bonn: The sister of Wei Jingsheng, the jailed Chinese dissident, has asked President Herzog of Germany to intercede for his release before a planned visit to Peking next month. Wei Shanshan, who lives in Germany, said she was not sure her brother would survive another winter in prison. (AFP)

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# Sheer summer luxury



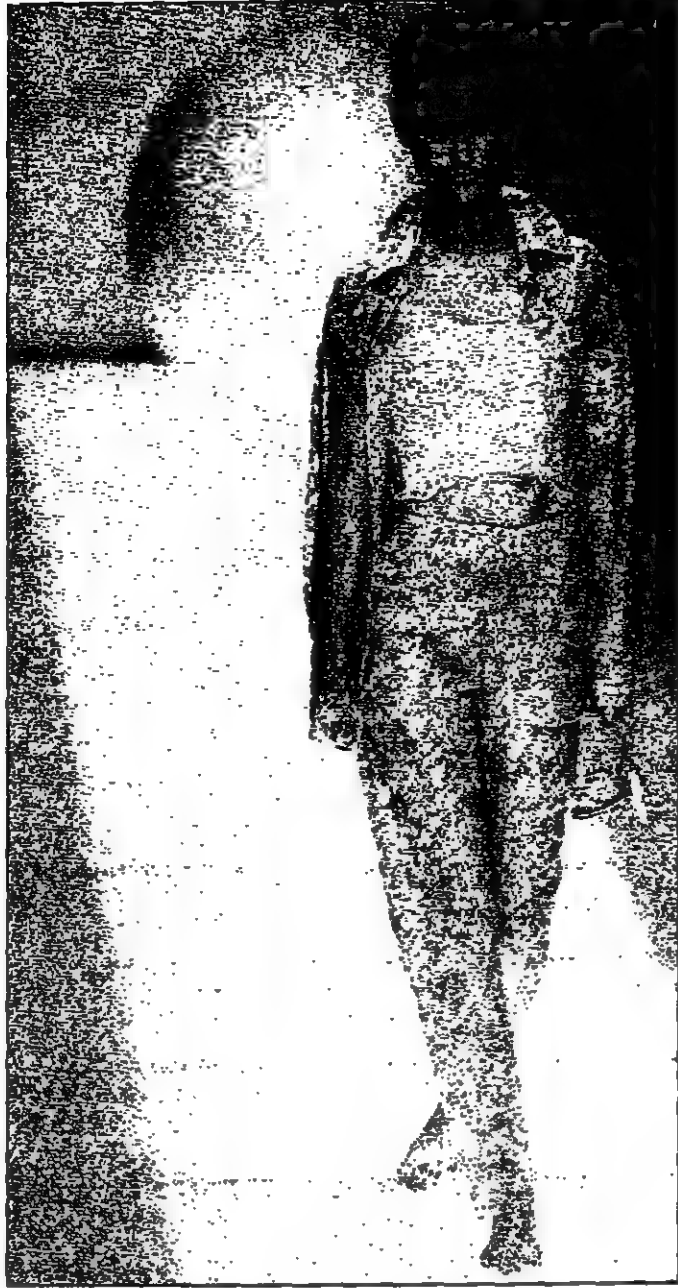
JOHN RICHMOND: tie belt



GIANFRANCO FERRÉ: crisp



DOLCE &amp; GABBANA: revealing filmy dresses



GIORGIO ARMANI: featherweight beadwork



PRADA: Oriental tourist



GIANNI VERSACE: frills



ALBERTA FERRETTI: the prettiest clothes of all

LAUREL: single button  
Photographs by CHRIS MOORE/ANDREW THOMAS

By the fourth day of Milan Fashion Week, which ended on Sunday evening, the woman sitting next to me looked a little perplexed. "Just what am I supposed to wear next summer?" she asked.

The models parading on the catwalk in front of us at the Dolce & Gabbana show were dressed in perfectly pretty dresses made from layers of chiffon with waistlines raised to under the bosom. They were sometimes patterned with ivy leaves, sometimes covered with leopard print, but whatever the look they were invariably filmy enough to reveal the underwear: big knickers were a big trend in Italy this season.

The lingerie industry must have been rubbing its hands together in glee as such glamorous little nothings turned up on practically all the catwalks in Milan.

This was fashion at its most directional, sign-posting the overriding mood of the season: the future (or at least next summer) looks decidedly femi-

The Milan catwalks hosted a flimsy parade of fragile see-through glamour for summer '97

nine. Frills, flesh-pink foundation colours and flapper dresses were universal, as were roses and ruffles, but what of the question posed by the young woman beside me? Well, if you buy just one item of clothing next season it had better be a white trouser suit. Almost every designer had one in their collection, and the new fluid silhouette fitted perfectly with the feminine mood.

The trouser suit came in white linen at Gucci while Gianfranco Ferré showed several styles, the best in white piqué cotton. John Richmond's was buttonless with a tie belt. Single-button jackets were popular with Laura and Anna Molinari. Alternatively Maruccia Mandelli at Krizia favoured a double-breasted version. Lawrence Steele presented a longer-line jacket with hidden buttons, and Jill

## MILAN

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

Sander remained true to her minimalist ethos — her trouser suit was altogether devoid of any kind of fastenings.

Giorgio Armani cut a trouser suit for his Emporio line in fluid white jersey, while at MaxMara the look was more structured with a top-stitched outline. The Sportmax show featured an abbreviated A-line jacket (with bracelet length sleeves) in white on white brocade which looked like a couture find from the Fifties. This nostalgic feeling was extremely popular.

Not everyone followed suit. The only things white at Missoni were the pristine T-shirt and matching knickers which opened the otherwise crazy colour-filled show. Tai and Rosita Missoni's zigzag lewis still looked fresh, now coloured golden browns and baby blues, lilac, wine and jade. For evening, little knitted bikini tops and long split skirts were covered with a glossy coat of clear sequins.

Tom Ford at Gucci certainly likes women to look shiny, from their wet-look hair to their faces sprinkled with stardust. Narrow trousers were split at the ankle (a little young) and skirts split high on the thigh (a little tart). Ford

offered a sexy new silhouette — a strapless dress, baggy around the waistline yet snug across the bottom. He also showed ultrafine knits, gorgeous suede, lurex and velvet in sombre shades of chocolate, navy, dark emerald, ruby and silver grey. However, the image is starting to look a touch Eighties Eurotrash.

Jill Sander's silhouette was similar to Ford's. Her strapless dress came in black, while navy blue sweaters tucked into A-line wrap skirts. She showed creamy knits, buff suede and tan leather (punctured with tiny holes) mixed with unusual stabs of colour — a long raspberry pink chiffon dress under an ivory jacket; a Gitanes-blue back-belted dress; and red turned-up trousers under a black see-through dress. Best of all was a white crumpled T-shirt tucked into silvery white jumbo bag trousers.

Prada made a pretty show with (still) lots of lingerie-look dresses, but newer was the mix of crisp military tailoring in buff and navy blue with sumptuous Chinoiserie — Mao-collared jackets and calf-length wrap skirts.

The Orient was an inspiration for everyone. At Dolce & Gabbana Wedgwood blue willow-patterned silk was cut into ankle-length wrap skirts and sexy dresses. These were worn with leopard print and more roses. Sportmax continued the East meets West theme with patterned kimono coats worn with flowery wrap skirts, while simple one-shouldered jersey tops were shown alongside sheer dresses covered with cherry blossom. Even though Sportmax is essentially a mid-market line it was put together with such style that it worked better than some of its more directional counterparts.

Both Gianni Versace and Giorgio Armani embraced the spirit of the moment and made

it look effortless. At Versace frills looked utterly wearable cut in lilac, grey and black jersey, while see-through dresses were heavily patterned and appliquéd with colourful flowers to make them decent. A little grey and pink jersey dress with a fluted hemline captured the essence of the season without any fuss.

Meanwhile, Giorgio Armani used featherweight fabrics for his mainline collection. He continued to perfect his softer-than-soft tailoring, but it was the finale of flesh-coloured, diaphanous dresses (often teamed with trousers, giving them an Eastern feel), exquisitely beaded with trailing flowers, which was breathtaking. It seems Armani can make even a dress weighed down with tens of thousands of beads look positively fragile.

But there was still one show in Milan where everything — the frills, the lace, the see-through fabrics and pallid colour palette — fitted into place. Alberta Ferretti's mainline collection was the best example this season of how fashion can (and should) be directional and wearable simultaneously. By adding a black slip and black opaque tights under her pretty nothing dresses, Ferretti didn't need the big knickers.

The look was Empress Josephine meets Gwyneth Paltrow with a touch of Madame Butterfly thrown in for good measure — an empire-line shift worn under a suede jacket, delicate yet decidedly modern. A kimono wrap dress looked easy in creamy matt silk. Little white fine cotton sundresses were a patchwork of panels, while a series of black organza tie-front dresses with cut-out flowers stitched around the dipping hemline were simply divine.

In fact, Ferretti's collection was so desirable that my female companion turned to me at the end of the show and said: "I want to wear everything." Roll on 1997 for a summer of sheer luxury.

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## Fashion, food and the health police

Our growing obsession with a healthy diet can actually get in the way of eating well

Whenever, to misquote Goering on all counts, "I hear people talking of health, I reach for my gin."

More people live in better health and for longer than ever before and yet we are fixated upon our every piffling complaint. Much as I'd like, I can't profess to be immune either. I, too, am drawn, despite myself, to Dr Thomas Stuttaford's every utterance. But, if the way the ever-increasing space that these utterances fill is anything to go by, the health fixation is a more or less universal syndrome. Normally, it is seen as a symptom of this supposed Age of Anxiety, but really it is no more than self-obsession, a way of focusing on ourselves and snatching the high moral ground at the same smug time. Health is seen now as the greatest good, the highest virtue, and those who aspire to it are the new pilgrims.

There is a germ of truth underpinning this faith, as the cliché testifies as long as you've got your health... and so forth. It may be true that hypochondriacs — and that's what we all are now — preserve their health by their constant worrying, but the very preoccupation can become a malaise in itself. And quite the worst, certainly the most corrosive, offshoot of all this is a neurotically freighted obsession with eating, which entails the demonisation of some foodstuffs and the glorification of others. No one dares to write a cookbook now without having some blurb or preface extolling the healthiness of the diet therein expounded.

Sometimes it's just dishonesty, of course. We claim to be eating something because it's healthy, but really we do so because we like the taste of it. And that's how it should be. The reason is nobler than the lie. The consuming passion we have for all things north Italian is passed off as concern for health but it is just, commendably, greed. And I think it stems, too, from a certain sort of national insecurity. In this respect, the recently published *Which?* report, which castigates us for disparaging our home-grown food, is quite right. There is something rather suspect about our crusading enthusiasm for the cuisines of other countries and our failure to value our own culinary heritage. We are beginning to do that. It's true, but if we are lucky to live in an age ushered in by Elizabeth David, it is also true that her glorification of

all things Mediterranean is at times to our own culinary cost.

*Health Which?* is right to point out that British food is not necessarily any less healthy than the much-touted Mediterranean diet. The magazine blames fashion for leading the way to our own culinary self-deprecation, but fashion influences no less its own beliefs as to what is or is not healthy. Not so long ago butter, eggs, milk, red meat, the excellent produce of British farms, were held to be the tenets of the healthy diet. Now animal fats and flesh have been vilified and unsaturated fats sanctified: olive oil is become some sort of holy ointment. And yet a recent report found that the people of southwest France have the lowest incidence of heart disease in Europe and the highest fat intake, since they dollop

example, have a national tendency towards low blood pressure.

The endless and obviously futile quest to find a diet that will confer immortality should be abandoned: the real rule to follow, as far as food is concerned, is to eat well. It's not British meat that is bad for us, but the way it has been produced in this country: the obsession with leanness together with the obsession for cheapness has all but guaranteed lousy, and potentially lethal, meat. Pigs are intensively reared and bred to produce lean meat, when everyone knows that it is in fat that the flavour of meat resides. And pigs kept in factory conditions rather than being left to scuffle about outside don't acquire a good tough hide — and that is why you can't get good crackling now. And we all know where the mistreating of beef cattle led us.

The thing that would improve our national diet spectacularly — forget about what is currently thought healthier or not — would be if we all concerned ourselves rather more with the conditions in which our food was produced. It is a moot point, that, in the same issue of *Health Which?* that finds for British food, there is also a report stating that several samples of pre-packaged ham from the UK were tested and discovered to be infected with listeria, and even the uninfected samples were pumped up with water. This is the sort of food that is bad for us, not butter and properly reared beef. And I don't scoff at the idea of a deep-fried Mars bar in batter, either. In fact, I'd love to try one. It is a boring thing to say, but true nonetheless, that moderation in some things, excess in others is the best diet to follow.



Nigella Lawson

goose fat on to just about everything they eat. It has also been discovered that pregnant women who ate meat had healthier, more intelligent babies than their supposedly dietetically superior vegetarian counterparts.

There is obviously a relationship between diet and health, but I don't believe it is a straightforward one. Take the fact that women in the West have a one in 12 chance of developing breast cancer, while the percentage among women in Japan is one in 60. The Japanese diet itself (very low in saturated fat, high in soya, very little meat and a great deal of fish) obviously plays a part, but it doesn't guarantee health: the Japanese have an extremely high rate of stomach cancer.

There do seem to be diseases to which certain nations, certain peoples are prone. The Germans, for

In *The Road to Wigan Pier*, George Orwell pointed out that an appetite for healthy food was the province of the rich. This is not just because healthier food is always more expensive, but because those who live harder lives rely on the instant energy provided by fat and sugar. In an age of unemployment the poor still lead the hardest lives, only the calories needed to fuel lives of enforced leisure (and that goes for all of us) are fewer and that's what makes us, as a nation, become fatter. That has changed, but for the rest, what has? Health is still the concern of those more likely to be well, and diet the focus of those who anyway eat better.

## Day three: After a 15-year apprenticeship Bacon finds his voice



Two panels from *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*, which glower with the memory of injury and the prophecy of evil

The war years were a period of intense germination for Bacon. Because of his chronic asthma, he was pronounced unfit for active service. The artist nevertheless was acutely sensitive to the suffering he saw around him. The unfilled artist in Bacon, who was now in his early thirties, was forced to think in terms of the images he wanted to paint.

He started with *Figure Getting out of a Car*. The painting shows a fowl-like, fleshy creature laying its long, bandaged, penis-like neck on a pile of ammunition, which is also unmistakably phallic-looking. The neck ends in a pair of meticulously painted teeth, bared in a snarl; and the whole spectre uncovers out of an open car drawn from one of the artist's early drawings. This image, which was probably painted in 1939-40, was recorded by Peter Rose Pulham, a photographer of the period and a friend of Bacon's, in the artist's studio in 1946; shortly thereafter, Bacon repainted the canvas almost entirely, so that everything but the bared teeth of the biomorphic vanishes beneath a mass of vegetation. Only the Nazi car survives more or less intact, and the new version, with its toned-down but more insidious atmosphere of threat, was entitled *Landscape with Car*.

The snarling, bandaged "penis dentate" of the original image directly predicts the middle panel of the *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*, the work that announced resoundingly Bacon's definitive entry into the art world. Similarly, a *Study for a Figure*, painted later in the war, that belongs to the "abandoned" canon of Bacon's works, clearly foreshadows the left-hand panel of the triptych in its crouched position, its outstretched head and

## The howl of an iconoclast



### FRANCIS BACON REVEALED

elements that went into the making of *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*. Yet even now, a half-century later, nothing really prepares the viewer for the triptych's rawness, as it glowers from the mid-century with the memory of injury and the prophecy of more evil to come. What sets the *Three Studies* apart is its scale and its deliberateness. The searchings of 15 years' sporadic apprenticeship come to a dramatic conclusion. It is as if, freed from self-doubt and inhibition, the artist had been goaded into making a statement of exacerbated authority. If Bacon may be said to have found his own voice in these panels, it is the scream of his open-mouthed monster on the right. But the basic questions continue to return, after decades of attempted interpretation. What does this howl mean? How did these ungainly, menacing figures come about? What gives the whole triptych, with its roughly delineated space and suffused orange background, its power

as an emblem of brute suffering, ravening greed and generalised evil? Despite the rawness, and for all the artist's lack of formal education, the work grew out of a highly developed visual and literary culture as well as out of emotional urgency. The most important source for this picture, as for those that led up to it, was Picasso. In 1938, at the London Gallery, there had been an exhibition of drawings and collages by Picasso that Bacon would have seen. More significantly, in

October of that year, *Guernica* went on show at the New Burlington Galleries. Bacon absorbed *Guernica* with the single-minded concentration he had given to the older artist's biomorphic period. In a sense, the *Three Studies* was his *Guernica*, a savage outburst and a decisive statement, albeit not provoked by any specific event or linked to any political cause. Shaky and intermittent as his first efforts as a painter had been, Bacon now experienced with great gusto the world opening up around him. In a series of inspired accidents, his *Painting 1946* was about to materialise, confirming his presence as a disturbing iconoclast in the mid-mannered English art world. Bacon was to follow this with a series of *Heads*, brought together in a one-man show in 1949, that were to establish his mastery of oil paint and his uncanny ability to provoke chance effects within the infinitely malleable medium. The following year, he rounded off the period with a *Fragment of a Crucifixion*, which showed that his power to shock was in no way diminished by an increasingly sophisticated technique: it had simply become more insidious.

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The work grew out of a visual culture and emotional urgency

the great, diagonal, upward sweep — whether of flesh or fabric — from which it juts. A third abandoned image, sketched out in oil on composition board during the Petersfield interlude, consists of little more than a head, its upper half shadowed by a peaked cap, its lower split into a scream. Floating over a mess of random marks and such vestigial forms as a ghostly sketch of a hand, the mouth acts as a precisely defined exit for the inchoateness of the picture. The outpouring from this dark orifice neatly rounded round with teeth conveys a specific threat, since it was clearly inspired in part by photographs of the Nazi war leaders. One likely source for the unfinished Petersfield image was a *Picture Post* snapshot of Goebbels, his mouth wide open in full public harangue, that Bacon kept in his studio for years.

Hindsight undoubtedly helps to disentangle the many

Francis Bacon: Anatomy of an Enigma by Michael Peppiatt, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

TOMORROW

Francis Bacon falls in love for the first time



# Why I am a monetary agnostic

There is more to Europe than the euro, says Douglas Hurd

The angriest arguments in politics often take place within parties. Arguments between parties can be resolved by a general election or a parliamentary vote. Arguments within parties fester unresolved until events make them irrelevant. Before this happens they create the maximum ill-will — and the bad arguments that go with bad temper. So it is at present with the Conservative Party over Europe. So it would be with the Labour Party over Europe were it ever elected to government. In opposition, it is easier to disguise dissent in government, decisions have to be taken and discussion brought to a head.

At the heart of these divisions in both main parties is the proposal for a single currency. The other concerns and opportunities for Britain in Europe tend to be forgotten as the focus narrows and the temperature rises. The feverish nature of our debate on Europe is now seriously undermining British influence in the European Union.

When our well-wishers in the rest of Europe read suggestions here that the BSE crisis was invented by continentalists to destroy the British beef industry, or that one of the main aims of the European Court is to deluge Britain in pork, or that Helmut Kohl shares the aims of Adolf Hitler, they sigh and hope for a return to sense by their old British friend. Our proposals for reform of European institutions will not get a serious hearing if there is a suspicion that we intend not to strengthen but to cripple them.

I have never myself advocated a single European currency. On the economic side there is a crucial unanswered question. It is now likely that the economies of at least seven or eight European countries will converge sufficiently in this century for a political decision to be taken to create the euro. But this dogged effort, including some once-and-for-all devices, will not mean that the economies and societies have genuinely and permanently converged. What is the remedy when the strains of divergence show? What at the beginning seems a palace might turn out to be a prison.

My second concern is wider. Currency stability brings huge benefits. But it is drastic to achieve such benefit by abolishing national currencies and so dislocating the nature of millions of daily transactions by our citizens. The wit of man should have devised a means of currency stability without preventing old ladies from shopping in pounds or marks as they have done all their lives. The Cabinet was right last April to promise a referendum if it decided in the next Parliament that it was in Britain's interests to join.

So it is reasonable at this stage to be agnostic about a single currency, and to support the Cabinet's decision to keep open the freedom to join or stay out which the Prime Minister negotiated at Maastricht. As he has often argued,

What at first seems a palace may turn out a prison

it is to our advantage to remain fully involved in the preparation of the euro without being committed to the outcome, since we will be powerfully influenced by it whether or not we join. Moreover no one can tell, for example, how much blood we might lose in terms of investment, jobs and the health of our financial sector if we stayed out and the euro succeeded. Some are sure we will suffer, some are sure we will not: nobody knows. The Government's stance is undramatic but right.

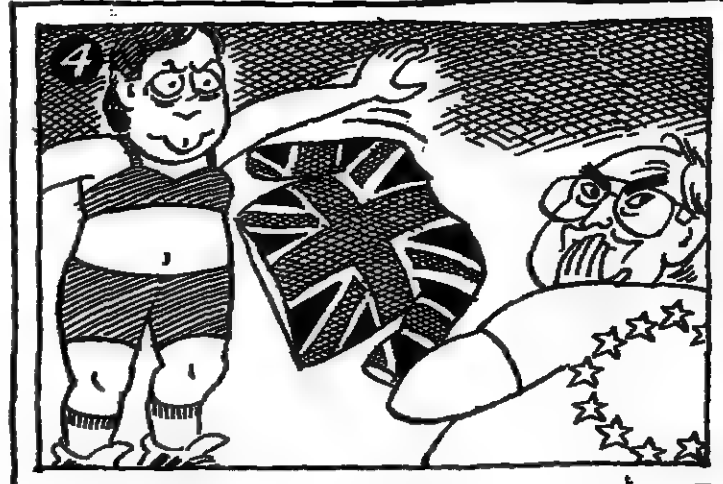
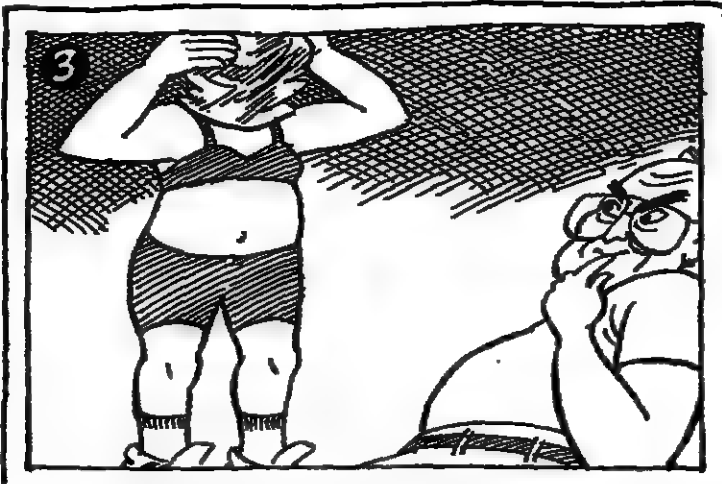
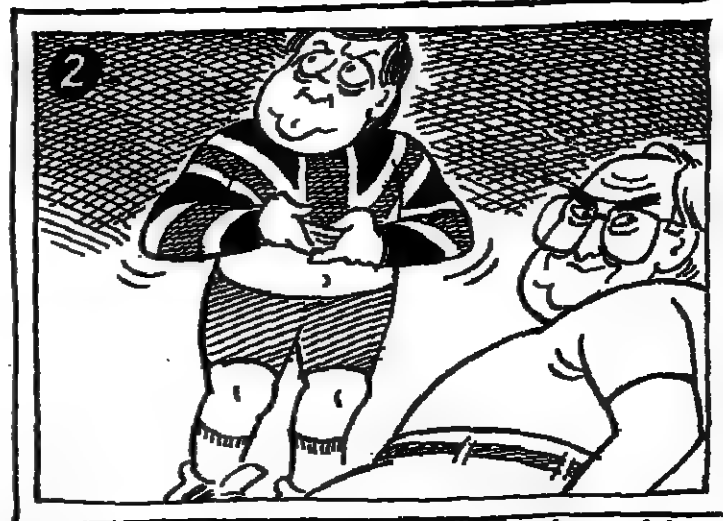
Meanwhile we are in danger of neglecting the other enterprises in Europe, which Britain strongly supports: enlargement, co-operation in foreign policy, and completing the single market. Having visited Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic in September, I know the strength of their ambition to join the EU, and how dangerous to delay their entry indefinitely — particularly if Britain were held responsible for that delay. On foreign policy, it is sometimes supposed that because we cannot agree on everything it is pointless to agree on anything. That must be nonsense. We should make strenuous efforts to agree the substantial issues, such as policy towards Russia, where there need be no difference between us. Where we can all agree, we should act in common, strengthening the machinery for doing this as the British and French Governments have proposed.

In completing the single market — for example in telecommunications, energy and aviation — the Commission is our ally. We should encourage it to move faster, but that means treating it as a friend, not an enemy. The EU is moving away from subsidies — too slowly but in the right direction. Britain, which has already privatised and liberalised under Conservative Governments, stands to benefit greatly from the gradual opening of continental markets.

Somehow we have to return to a balanced and total view of British interests in Europe. There is no electoral advantage in picking unnecessary quarrels. We can fight our corner most robustly if our partners understand that we want the partnership to succeed. Only then do our concerns and difficulties carry conviction.

There is a real danger that for lack of this wide view we shall see the gradual unravelling of the most successful exercise in co-operation which Europe has ever seen. Our concept of an effective European partnership of nations, with the supranational institutions needed to police the single market, has greater support among the peoples of Europe than now appears. If we can shake off our own spasms of fear and prejudice we will find the task of persuasion much easier.

The author was Foreign Secretary, 1989-95.



EXCLUSIVE! That secret video romp in full...

## Major can do no other

If the Prime Minister's critics want him to win, they must back him

John Major is a good Surrey man. I am sure this week he will be pondering the words of that other son of Surrey, William of Ockham: *Frustra fit per plura, quod potest fieri per pauciora*. Too many cooks spoil the broth. Stick to the essentials, says Ockham's theorem. Or in the American Marine translation: "Keep it simple, stupid."

Mr Major wishes to win the next election. He has the economy in good shape. The generals in charge of his domestic front are more or less in line. It is too late now to change the command or tear up the order of battle, however poor it looks. All systems are go. Yet still "Europe" lurks round every corner. It blackens every discussion and gaterashes every party. Europe is Mr Major's dull ache, his ghastly relative. It will not go away.

I have been a sceptic about the Common Market for longer than I can remember. I watched the craven Europhilia of such sceptic converts as Margaret Thatcher, Michael Howard and Norman Lamont as they campaigned for a "Yes to Europe" in the Seventies and voted through every concession to Brussels. Ask me whether I would join the European monetary union and I would say no. I have just read a million words on the subject, and I still say no. Those wishing a recap should try Christopher Johnson's *pro-EMU In with the Euro: Out with the Pound* (Penguin). They should then read Patrick Minford's *anti-EMU Britain and Europe: the Balance Sheet* (New European). Minford is convincing. Johnson is not.

In a nutshell, the economic benefits of a currency union, as opposed to a free-trade union, are trivial or can be achieved by sovereign self-discipline. As Minford argues, monetary union will make rigid the political economies of its member states. The shifts in population or subsidy required to counteract an imbalance in national economies will not be tolerated by member democracies. The system will break, as inter-state currency unions have broken in the past. The 19th-century Latin and Scandinavian currency unions broke, as did the gold standard. Bretton Woods and more recently the exchange-rate mechanism. The law is simple. Market disciplines work until market disciplines don't work.

I sense that the Prime Minister agrees. But that is not the question he has to ask himself. His critics fantasise that if either Sir Edward Heath or Baroness Thatcher were leading the party "we would all know where we stood". This is rubbish. Chief among the plotters who threw out both leaders were those bitterly opposed to their stance on Europe. Margaret Thatcher twisted and contorted and finally capitulated to her foes in her effort to balance her Cabinet. It did her no good. She joined the ERM and lost a Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister in the bargain.

The Tories, mirroring the British electorate, have always dealt their leader a fiendish hand on Europe. They refuse to contemplate withdrawal from the EU. Britons want to be part of a free-trade area, but one from which they can gain much and to which they contribute little. They are rightly suspicious that other European states have other intentions and will move quickly to political union. They therefore want reassurance, and require their leaders, when "in Europe", to be bloody-minded, cantankerous, sceptical and cheerleading — yet always short of withdrawal.

All Tory leaders have found this a tough political challenge. None has emerged unscathed. Margaret Thatcher's acceptance of the Single European Act paved the way for Maastricht. Mr Major and his team were appalled by much of what was in Maastricht, and by the manner of its passage. He negotiated the opt-outs, which now stand to Britain's advantage and leave open the "maybe" on monetary union and the social chapter. I believe he made a mistake in not putting the Maastricht treaty to a referendum. But he has now agreed to put monetary union to a referendum, should he win the election, take leave of his senses and advocate British membership.

The present demands of the Eurosceptics are mystifying. The so-called Referendum Party wanted a referendum when Mr Major was reluctant to concede one. When he did concede, it did not declare victory, but limply mutated its demand into a referendum on a "wider question" about a "European superstate". It has still not written the question, and so not defined its real disagreement with the Tory Cabinet. This seems a flimsy basis on which to found a new political movement, let alone to mount an election campaign that can only help to bring in a Labour government and everything that this new party professes to oppose.

Politics is often daft, but this is idiotic. The question Mr Major has to ask himself is not whether he believes in monetary union but whether it is judicious, with an election in the offing, to force a decision on his Cabinet and party now. Both main parties are divided. There are probably 50 "pro-EMU" Tory MPs and probably 150 outright "antis", with a roughly proportional split in the Cabinet. Mr Major found a compromise last winter which his Cabinet could agree. This was that Britain should "take part in discussions leading to a single currency but should defer final decision until one has to be made". Gallup put precisely this fudge to the public in its pre-conference poll last week. From each of the parties' supporters, especially from Tories, the fudge won most votes.

is no cost to staying at this table. The reason for Mr Major's "maybe" is not a reluctance to make up his mind, but the need to keep the party and Cabinet together into the election. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will not tolerate an instruction to withdraw from the current talks. The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, would be unhappy too. These are three of the most senior figures in the party. To alienate or even lose the Chancellor and possibly Mr Heseltine, the party's best-known public faces, at this stage of the campaign would be madness.

Mr Major does not have the option that the Eurosceptics are pressing on him. At every turn — during Maastricht, during the ratification debate, the ERM collapse, the referendum commitment — he has doggedly met his remit, to proceed in Europe with minimum enthusiasm and maximum obstruction. But any party leader has a remit that overrides even this one. It is to respect what is necessary, if not the sufficient, condition for success at an election, the unity of his Cabinet.

No political task has given Mr Major more anguish than maintaining this unity. Nothing damaged Margaret Thatcher more than her apparent failure to keep her Cabinet colleagues alongside her. With the bizarre exception of John Redwood, Mr Major has succeeded, despite near intolerable pressure from the extremists to drive him off his chosen course of compromise.

A political party is a responsive organism. When its members see a crash ahead — as most Tories now do — they instinctively begin evasive action. They wonder what other driver might extricate them afterwards. The candidates for this job understandably cannot stop themselves crying "Look at me". Human beings can stand only so much humbug, but Mr Major is in this battle for life or death. His critics might want him gone, or want him different, or wish he had never existed. But if they want their party to win, they cannot quarrel with his achievement on Europe. He has held his party in line, ragged, squabbling, nervous, but in a line. In this matter, rather than over devolution or in Ulster, I believe history will grant him the title of statesman. It is the statesmanship of Maybe, and Ockham would have approved.

Simon Jenkins

## Wanted man

THE JITTERS in the Conservative Party have got to everyone — including the media. Yesterday the BBC's *Today* programme tried to grab physically Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, even while he was being interviewed by their television rivals, *Breakfast News*.

Evidence of the unsavoury tussle came for early morning viewers in the form of an arm lunging on screen to grab Dorrell. It was restrained before it could reach the Health Secretary and hoik him out of view.

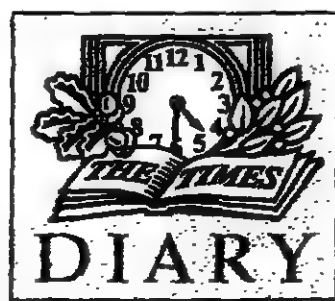
The arm belonged to a producer of *Today*, Cathy Packe, who was incensed that *Breakfast News* was hogging her man: she stormed on the set during the live interview to try to strangle Dorrell for a radio slot. Pandemonium followed, and Justin Webb, the interviewer, apologised to Dorrell. But while everybody about him was losing his head, Dorrell was a somewhat bemused oasis of calm. "For one moment I felt like a faith healer," he said later. "People were laying hands all over me."

Roger Mosey, the editor of *Today*, took a less sanguine attitude in a memo which he

circulated to his staff yesterday: "To be blunt, we usually win on guests and we are the dominant programme in our time-slot. This means we have an obligation to behave decently towards our colleagues and to build a reputation for co-operation, so I won't tolerate the sort of behaviour which went on in Bournemouth this morning, no matter how great the pressure or provocation. Got that?"



"Have you seen Hogg?"



David "Treat Me" Ruffley, the flamboyant Central Office apparition and parliamentary candidate, has been irritating people in his prospective constituency, Bury St Edmunds. He insists on referring to it as BSE. Locals are not impressed. He must be mad.

### Hogg's head?

DOUGLAS HOGG'S security at the party conference is second only to that of the Prime Minister. After his kidnapping by angry farmers last week, Hogg has been assigned extra-special Special Branch protection. He is accompanied by goons wherever he goes, and his hotel room is a virtual bunker.

Hogg must be relieved that as soon as his conference duties are over he is off to inspect an air-sea rescue unit. He will be winched

down to a boat out at sea — as far as possible from the pitchfork-wielding mob that has been marching angrily and goading the Hogget outside the Bournemouth conference centre.

### Fagin it

THE THEATRE management laid on special arrangements at the Palladium the other night for Michael Jackson, the reorganised popstar, who had dropped into see Oliver!

Jackson took over the Royal Box, but in keeping with his reclusive



Jacko: privacy first

nature, he had insisted beforehand that a hoarding be placed around his seat so that nosy parkers wouldn't be able to spot him.

Extra care was taken to meet his ridiculous demands after rumours spread that he has plans to make a film version of Lionel Bart's musical. In a visionary move, Jackson is said to be considering himself for the juvenile lead. Forever young, he?

### Wood you?

A ROMANTIC dinner with his wife, Serena, at the Savoy last night, on their third wedding anniversary, will have come as a welcome break for Viscount Linley, whose mother so brusquely returned a bunch of flowers she had been sent by the Duchess of York.

He is in the throes of setting up a business in Yorkshire and has been scouting for talent in the county. With his partner, Mark Whiteley, he is looking for workers for his furniture factory in the former Normanby Territorial Army barracks at Whitley.

The pair have placed cards in the local jobcentre offering £3-£8 per hour, "depending on age and experience", for craftsmen with knowledge of working with hard woods such as oak, sycamore and walnut.



Duchess irrelevant

Not for him the TUC's £4.26 minimum wage.

She may be creating waves elsewhere, but the Duchess of York's giddy behaviour is lost on Professor Ben Pimlott, who launched his biography of the Queen this week. "She's a complete irrelevance; of no importance whatsoever," he said. "The average Sun reader knows more than I do about Fergie. Constitutionally, she is completely and utterly meaningless. Constitutionally extravagant too."

P-H-S

Alan Coren



Electronic security? It's a real steal

I used to think I was no more paranoid than the next man. That was before I began thinking about the next man. What does he know about me? What will he do with what he knows, if he does know anything? Tell it to the man next to him? How did he come to know it? And what is it, anyhow?

You get thoughts like that, when you get letters like this. It arrived a couple of days ago, from a security company. It said it had been sent to me because I was "a person in the public eye". It had read me in its newspapers, it had heard me on its TV screen. It had done more than that: it had gone into my background. It knew my fax number, and my mobile phone number, and my unlisted business number, and it knew, chillingly moreover, that what you are reading now was sent to *The Times* from my computer via a modem. It told me it knew that to let me know that it was easy to know. And as the result of my now knowing how easy it is to know, I do not know if you are reading this in *The Times* at all. You may be reading it in *Fancy Rat Weekly* or the *Beijing Beano*, for all I know.

For all I know is that, according to the letter, it is a doddle to patch into my modem. As much of a doddle as it is to eavesdrop on any of my phones, read my faxes or hack into my computer. While this should be a worry to anyone, said the letter, it should be a particular worry to me, because I had intellectual property to protect. I have, of course, always known that, but I have never looked upon it in quite that way. Up until now, I have protected my intellectual property mainly by putting a hat on it when it was raining, because if I caught a cold my intellectual property would not be able to think straight.

But now, I was given to understand, *Fancy Rat Weekly* and the *Beijing Beano* were only two among potential thousands of villains eager to get their hands on my intellectual property, because electronic robbery was not just a matter of nicking 800 unpaid words from my laptop and sticking them into the thief's own publication, or setting them up on an unofficial Web site, or otherwise fencing them for illicit gain via this unsportable medium or that. It was also a matter of what the letter described as thought-poaching. Which is to say that, if, for example, I rang Steven Spielberg to tell him I had this terrific idea for an underwater musical based on *King Lear*, when could my people talk to his people, before I had even sent my best wishes to Mrs Spielberg, other people's people would be ringing Andrew Lloyd Webber's people with this terrific idea for an underwater musical based on *King Lear*. It could cost me millions.

Unless — you guessed? — I had had the nous to commission the sender of the letter to bugproof all my technology, install scramblers, set up intercepts, monitor my every cybernetic move. Such intervention would, it went on slyly, carry the priceless bonus of simultaneously protecting my private life from the public eye in which I allegedly was leaving me free to — though it did not specify — phone my toe-sucker of choice, wire bribes to biddable MPs, fax instructions to insider traders, and engage in any such other *sub rosa* shenanigans which the press and the pood might otherwise find even more engaging.

None of which interests me. What interests me is that my caring correspondent not only seems to have found out a great deal about me, but that, once hired for a fat fee, he would very soon know everything else. Quis, in short, custodiet? I am an intellectual property owner, now. I look at my phone, thinking: whom dare I call? I look at my keyboard, thinking: what dare I type? I look at my fax, thinking: what dare I send? And I look at my letter, thinking: if I invited these freaks to listen in on who and what, I would never thereafter dare anything at all.

Should I pull all the plugs, and go back to quill and stamps? Only if I have faith in a thousand postmen. Motorbike messengers? Be serious! Trust friends? Paranoids do not have friends. I tell you, if I had, now, to bring the good news from Ghent to Aix, I would spring to the stirrup alone. How well do I know this Dirck? What kind of a name is Joris?





## TOUGH TRUTHS

The Home Secretary's package deserves support

It is a measure of Michael Howard's political success that the grudging applause and calls for the rope which used to greet the Home Secretary at Conservative Party conferences have been replaced by a genuine enthusiasm. Mr Howard again showed a shrewd sensitivity to Tory concerns yesterday. Not all his proposals may make it to the statute book before the general election, but the bulk of the legislation promised deserves support.

Mr Howard's speech concentrated on practical remedies for perceived inadequacies in the criminal law but he prefaced his announcements with an assault on relativist attempts to explain away crime by searching for external "causes". He insisted that crime was a matter of individual responsibility and asserted that the best school of virtue was the home. He went on to defend parents' rights to discipline their children. His defence may have won extra decisions with a sideswipe at the European Court of Human Rights but it was no less welcome for that. It is an erosion, not an extension, of rights to prevent parents keeping order in a firm yet humane way.

The Home Secretary's most substantial new policy announcements covered drugs, juvenile crime and sex offences. The proposal to shut any club where a chief police officer had evidence of a serious drug problem should concentrate the minds of owners prepared to acquiesce in dealing and also save police time. Also worthwhile is the proposal to allow youth courts discretion to name convicted offenders. The principle has already been established. Any juvenile whose offence is serious enough to find himself in Crown Court can already be identified. The new power given to magistrates should be used sparingly but the ability to shame juveniles adds to the armoury the courts need to deter them.

Since he asserted at a previous conference

that "prison works", Mr Howard has been attacked by liberals for an over-reliance on incarceration in dealing with crime. His words marked a welcome reversal of years of Home Office orthodoxy which held that the main index of success was not crime figures dropping, but the prison population declining. Mr Howard has ensured that his department's priority is now protecting the public, not making life easier for offenders. But his speech yesterday indicated that he is not a one-trick pony. His plan to extend the power of the courts to disqualify drivers, like the naming of juveniles in certain circumstances, shows imagination.

The bulk of Mr Howard's proposals for dealing with sexual offences have already been unveiled. Minimum sentences were trailed last year, included in last session's White Paper and will be the centrepiece of the next session's Crime Bill. Measures to tackle paedophilia, including a national register of child sex offenders and a prohibition on paedophiles working with the young, were first floated in a consultation paper this June and it is no surprise but altogether welcome that the Government will seek to enact them.

Perhaps the most problematic new legislation covers stalking. Mr Howard hopes to create a new civil remedy of molestation and two new criminal offences for behaviour which might cause a person to believe immediate violence would be used against them or they would suffer harassment. Stalking has caused many women severe distress but any new law would have to be framed with care to ensure that it protected without offering the vindictive a new weapon. Mr Howard's activist tenure at the Home Office has seen debate move decisively in the direction of the victim. He must be careful not to create new categories in his anxiety to protect those he has already identified as deserving of help.

## THE REPUBLICAN TRAP

Despite provocation loyalists should keep their discipline

The attack on the Army headquarters in Lisburn was as unsubtle in its political message as in the callous brutality it displayed towards the lives of innocent people. After a period of considerable confusion as to which particular republican terrorist organisation was responsible, the IRA finally admitted to their role. The instant suspicions of Sir Patrick Mayhew and others were thus justified. Even by their own standards this bombing showed a complete disregard for the likely casualties. The peace process looks more vulnerable than ever before.

The strategy of the terrorists is straightforward. Since the Docklands bombing they have pursued a policy of selective violence aimed at high-profile institutions of the British State. Until now these assaults have been confined to the British mainland. Their objective is to cause spectacular damage while at the same time not completely precluding the possibility of a second ceasefire if invited to the negotiating table with minimal conditions attached. However, the principal drive has been to return to the armed struggle in a manner that maximises their advantage within Northern Ireland. Although alienated by recent events, the vast majority of Roman Catholics would be appalled if the Provisionals were the first to reintroduce indiscriminate killing of civilians within the Province.

The republican leadership knows that well and has sought to induce loyalist paramilitaries into making the first move. Given the recent success of British police and intelligence forces in anticipating their operations and arresting their operatives, the terrorists badly needed to re-establish their credibility as a fighting force. Sadly,

disturbingly lax security at Lisburn seems to have given them that opportunity.

Yet despite intense provocation in London and Manchester the various strands of Loyalist paramilitarism have so far held their fire. The reluctance of their own prisoners to endorse the process any longer highlights how taxing holding that line has become. Loyalists should recognise the trap and continue to avoid it. It is an unfortunate truth that the IRA can engage in numerous types of terror while staying shy of any action that would cause their own community to blame them for the complete resumption of violence. Loyalist forces, who support the institutions of British rule, would find themselves precipitating terrible communal violence if they abandoned their ceasefire. It remains to their moral and political advantage to still the trigger-finger. Responsibility falls upon Ulster politicians as well. David Trimble's insistence that decommissioning has become more, not less, important with each atrocity is absolutely justified. Even now certain quarters regard recent IRA activity as an "encouraging sign" that, having established their credentials, the General Army Council may move to suspend hostilities. The terrorists must not be permitted entry to political deliberations without absolute certainty that they cannot return to the armed struggle.

Alongside this, Ulster's politicians, especially the Rev. Ian Paisley, must offer positive proposals for Ulster's future capable of commanding widespread support among those committed to the constitutional route. The political process has moved at a painful pace to date. If this continues, the terrorists will once again dictate the political agenda for Northern Ireland.

## WOMEN AND ISLAM

Afghanistan does not represent the whole Muslim world

The Taliban, the Islamic zealots who now rule Kabul, yesterday insisted that they would not retreat from their harsh restrictions on women's rights. Not only do women now have to veil themselves completely when going outside, but all those in the Afghan capital are effectively under house arrest, forbidden to work, forbidden to be seen in the company of any unrelated males and risking a flogging for showing themselves even if only to go shopping. "Islam does not accept change," the acting Minister of Information declared, appropriating to himself the right to speak for the world's one billion Muslims and to attribute to his co-religionists the most narrow-minded interpretation of Islamic law.

Millions of Muslims will be embarrassed by his remarks. On the very day that this benighted spokesman was attempting to banish women back to the Middle Ages, Kuwait women were demonstrating for the right to vote during the Emir's general election. Women make up more than half the small state's population, and a growing number are determined to resist the encroachments of fundamentalism. Nearer to Afghanistan, Iranian officials have condemned the Taliban as reactionaries, calling their treatment of women unprincipled and verging on the misogynist.

That such condemnation should come from Iran is revealing. For despite its export of revolution and opposition to the West, Iran's Islamic Government has wrought a

social revolution. Women are still subject to enforced veiling and the whims of religious zealots; but their education, work opportunities and access to family planning clinics have improved considerably. The reason lies partly in the sophistication of society, where a middle class remembers the Westernised lifestyle under the Shah, but also a soaring birthrate that has convinced the Government of the need to improve women's rights as the best way of limiting families.

All this is in stark contrast to Afghanistan — ironically one of the first Muslim countries to propose votes for women as long ago as 1921, though legislation did not follow. Even in Algeria, however, where the revolutionaries of 30 years ago gave women an unprecedented role in fighting the French, women are now having their throats slit by Islamists determined to enforce their own myopic view of the Sharia.

In Malaysia, by contrast, women, empowered by the opportunities offered by information technology, are entering the workforce in unprecedented numbers. This is the pattern likely to be found increasingly in more developed Muslim societies. Islamic scholars argue that the Koran does not prohibit women from working, though concede that tradition has extolled them more as wives and mothers than as breadwinners. Their rights and role in society are increasingly going to be one of the challenges Islam must face, as the women of Kabul are finding to their cost.

## Bosnian elections and UN sanctions

From Sir Terence Clark

Sir, I was amazed to hear Sir John Weston, UK Representative to the United Nations, speaking on the BBC World Service on October 2 about the Security Council's lifting of sanctions from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serb Republic following "free and fair" elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Everyone in official positions here in Bosnia has been careful to avoid calling these elections "free and fair". Indeed, the Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) declared on September 29 that the political conditions for free, fair and democratic elections were not fulfilled.

Annex 3 of the Dayton peace agreement defines these conditions as: in particular a politically neutral environment... the right to vote in secret without fear or intimidation... freedom of expression and of the press... freedom of association (including of political parties) and... freedom of movement.

None of these conditions existed to even the minimum acceptable degree either before or during the elections; moreover, there are strong grounds for believing that the election results involved fraud.

After two weeks of muddle and confusion about the results and a healthy measure of mathematical juggling to reconcile them, Ambassador Frowick, Head of the OSCE Mission in Bosnia, which supervised the preparation and conduct of the elections, could only manage to say, on September 29, that "a reasonably democratic electoral process" had taken place.

The Security Council members were clearly in a difficult position. For reasons best known to themselves, they felt that sanctions had to be lifted. Less clear is why they should take this step; for in so doing they have effectively abandoned the leverage which sanctions afforded, whilst simultaneously appearing to reward the parties involved for their recalcitrance. In particular with regard to the issue of the detention of indicted war criminals.

However, Security Council Resolution No 1022 of November 22, 1995, clearly specified that the lifting of sanctions was dependent on "free and fair" elections having taken place, so it would seem that Sir John's use of the term was, after all, no mere slip of the tongue, but an elastic interpretation of the OSCE's words.

Yours faithfully,  
TERENCE CLARK  
(Director),  
International Crisis Group  
Bosnia Project,  
29 Kula Bana, Sarajevo,  
October 4.

## Funding pensions

From Mr Roger J. Ellis

Sir, There appears to be some confusion as to the funding of pensions in the EU under the EMU (letter, October 2).

Participation in the EMU would reduce Britain's control over money supply and interest rates (surely not a bad thing, bearing in mind our lack of success in this department), with interest rates in Britain falling considerably on joining — a point not often trumpeted.

Taxation is quite different. Taxation would still be under the full control of the individual states and governments. If there were extra pension payments to be found by certain countries these would be funded by extra taxation in those states only, and any inclination by those states to reflate the European economy to assist in this matter could be negated by making the European Central Bank independent of political control.

Thus extra pension payments would in no way be borne by a Britain inside the EMU.

Sincerely,  
ROGER J. ELLIS,  
7 The Willows, Bangor, Co Down,  
October 2.

## Tax and inflation

From Mr A. D. Levaggi

Sir, Mr M. C. Kennedy (letter, October 1), writing from Manchester University School of Economic Studies, appears to believe that national debt is paid off by taxpayers in general, as interest plus repayment of capital to holders of gilts. Would that it were so.

Ever since the 1930s, when inflation was zero or even negative, until very recently, interest paid after tax (at the standard rate) has been negative, being below the rate of inflation and insufficient to prevent the steady erosion of capital. Thus in 1978, with inflation approaching 27 per cent, just before the demise of the last Labour Government, building societies were offering 10 per cent net of tax interest on instant-access, over-the-counter accounts.

By and large, the British electorate votes for Santa Claus; but the largesse they receive from vote-buying politicians has to be paid for by that tax on savings known as inflation. The poll-tax riots will be nothing compared with what will happen when we are in the EMU and the European Central Bank imposes a strict spend-as-you-earn policy via the non-inflated euro.

Yours etc,  
DAVID LEVAGGI,  
4 Grosvenor Street, Bury, Lancashire,  
October 2.

## 'Culling' pupils who fail to shine

From Mr Joe Ruston

Sir, Libby Purves's article on the "culling" of school sixth-formers to improve A-level results ("Pupils must come before tables", October 1) is passionately argued but unfair. Our group of tutorial colleges receives many of the so-called culled (we have about 40 here now) and in our experience schools put the interests of the pupil first.

What typically happens is this: the school reports to the parents that their child is likely (for whatever reason) to achieve disappointing A-level results. The parents, mindful of the grades required for entry to the premier league universities, demand action and the school suggests a change of subject or more time on the existing ones. Usually, this means joining the year below, a prospect which most pupils reject. Finally, and only after much careful thought, the idea of moving to a new environment such as ours is explored.

This is not to say that schools never use the threat of expulsion to galvanise the lazy. We do the same and, indeed, find ourselves expelling a few students each year. I would just as passionately defend our right to do so.

Yours etc,  
JOE RUSTON  
(Chairman),  
Mander Portman Woodward Group,  
3 Elvaston Place, SW7,  
October 3.

From Mrs Pipyn Trustram Eve

Sir, I can understand Libby Purves's horror at the thought of "culling" the young; but in certain areas the practice has been occurring for many years.

Since 1983 this trust has been picking up and "recycling" young people who have left school without A levels but want to become chartered surveyors, chartered engineers or architects, all of which require degree entry. About 80 per cent of our intake achieve places on honour degree courses.

Yours faithfully,  
PIPYN TRUSTRAM EVE  
(Manager),  
The Chartered Surveyors  
Training Trust,  
9 Bentinck Street, W1,  
October 1.

From the Headmaster of Shiplake College

Sir, Libby Purves tells only half the story. There are many excellent small schools whose particular strength lies in supporting the very pupils she describes.

Small classes, intensive teaching and a flexible and imaginative curriculum allow many less able pupils to thrive in the sixth form and achieve

marvellous results.

Sadly, we have reached a time when market forces operate so strongly in independent fee-paying schools that parents of these children can now find places for them at 11 or 13 in more academic schools which, though struggling to fill their places, then reject them at 16.

Yours faithfully,  
NICK BEVAN,  
Headmaster,  
Shiplake College,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,  
October 2.

From the Headmaster of Malvern College

Sir, Libby Purves quotes part of a conversation I had on September 24 with a freelance journalist. In the course of a discussion on boarding we talked about why Malvern's A-level and GCSE performances had improved so much this year.

I said that in December 1994 pupils and their parents had been told that there would no longer be an automatic right of progression from the lower-sixth to the upper-sixth.

One result was that five pupils in 1995 and four pupils in 1996 had left the school. "Expulsion" was not a term which was ever used in this context. Some of the nine were simply ill-suited to an A-level course; others were not prepared to do the necessary work.

I stressed that we would always be prepared to keep faith with those who were weak but tried and participated, whatever their results were likely to be. There are plenty of instances of this.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY de C. CHAPMAN,  
Headmaster,  
Malvern College,  
Malvern, Worcestershire,  
October 2.

From Mr P. Newman and Miss J. Thornton

Sir, As sixth-formers at Malvern College we were disappointed to find our school misrepresented. The policy of "culling" pupils is not designed to penalise those who have been hard working yet unsuccessful.

Those who are idle and refuse to work in the face of encouragement are all given the opportunity to retake the lower-sixth year and warned that they need to apply themselves more thoroughly.

Yours faithfully,  
PETE NEWMAN,  
JOANNA THORNTON,  
Malvern College,  
Malvern, Worcestershire,  
October 1.

## Middle East peace

From Lieutenant-Commander A. Schroder, RNORV

Sir, Mr Menzies Campbell, QC, (letter, October 5) is not the only person to have repeatedly warned in your columns against the final failure of the Middle East peace process, or to refer in glowing terms to the Oslo agreement.

That agreement, announced on the lawn of the White House in September 1993, originated directly from the efforts of two Norwegian UN officials operating in the Gaza Strip. The Norwegian Defence Minister, Mr J. J. Holst, who later became involved in the process, died as a result of the stresses that entailed.

Why not let the brave people of Norway negotiate now, rather than rely on a weak US President looking over his shoulder at the next election? Let those who have a genuine interest in the process conduct the talks and leave the feeble politicians, whose main interest is often to gain personal political glory, out of it.

Yours truly,  
A. SCHRODER,  
Ash Barn School House Lane,  
Horsmonden, nr Tonbridge, Kent,  
October 5.

From Dr R. Lester Black

Sir, Mr Menzies Campbell's observa-

tions on the Middle East are superficial to the extreme.

The Oslo accord between Israel and the Palestinians amounted to a land-for-peace deal. Major steps, though not yet complete, were achieved by Israel in giving up land and power to the Palestinian authority. But the other side of the bargain, peace, was not delivered by the Palestinians. On the contrary, terrorist activities in Israel accelerated, claiming record numbers, for peace-time, of Israeli civilians murdered.

Peace for peace, important to both sides in this protracted dispute, is the *sine qua non* for any permanent solution.

Yours faithfully,  
R. L. BLACK,  
33 Daylesford Road,  
Cheshire, Cheshire,  
October 8.

From Mr F. J. Fishburn

Sir, However much one may sympathise with his sentiments, Mr Menzies Campbell appears to overlook the fact that Mr Netanyahu's Government was also democratically elected with a specific mandate to pursue the policy of peace for security.

Yours truly,  
F. J. FISHBURN,  
7 South Square,  
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11,  
October 7.

## National Grid

From Mr Andrew Young

Sir, I was glad to read that the Electricity Regulator plans to curtail excessive profits in the electricity transmission business (reports, Business, October 5) but was less sure that we, the consumers, should benefit so directly.

The profits have been made at considerable cost to the British landscape which has become grossly disfigured in so many places by grey, ugly pylons. Reversing half a century's damage will not be easy but Professor Littlechild has uncovered some funds which, potentially, could enable a start to be made in taking the National Grid underground.

Such a project would bring wider benefits far outweighing the sum of comparatively meagre returns to individual account holders who, like me, had presumably not queried where their overpayments had been going in the first place.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW YOUNG,  
37 Chapel Meadow,  
Buckland Monachorum,  
Yelverton, Devon,  
October 7.

## Long-term decline in aid spending

From the Director General of Save the Children and others

Sir, The long-term decline of Britain's overseas aid budget last year resulted in the first cut in real terms, and there are fears that this year's pre-election Budget could bring further cuts. We consider that these would not be in the national interest economically or politically, at home or abroad. Together with most of Britain's aid and development agencies, we urge the Government to reverse the decline in aid spending.

Above all, aid saves lives. But as well as the moral case for aid, stronger today than it has ever been, the economic and political arguments have gained ground. Global instability — both the cause and effect of conflict, unplanned urbanisation, inadequate infrastructure, public-health threats and environmental degradation — carries a high cost for the British taxpayer.

Properly targeted aid can help to prevent those disasters, many of which are rooted in poverty. By giving people, whole communities and countries a hand-up, aid can be a sound investment rather than a subsidy, to the benefit of both poorer and richer nations. Aid is something that Britain is good at, giving us weight on the international stage.

Given the health advances to which it has contributed, the jobs it has created, its political and economic dividend and the lives it has saved, it would be short sightedness to cut a budget whose reach is so wide and vital.

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE AARONSON,  
Director General, Save the Children,  
ALICE GOLDSMITH,  
Export Group for the Constructional Industries,  
JOHN MONKS,  
Trades Union Congress,  
THOMAS McMAHON,  
Catholic Diocese of Brentwood,  
THOMPSON TAYLOR,  
International and Development Affairs Committee, Church of England,  
DAVID WEATHERALL,  
Institute of Molecular Medicine,  
University of Oxford,  
c/o Save the Children Fund,  
17 Grove Lane, SES,  
October 8.

## Dinner for six

From Mr and Mrs Ted Gorton

Sir, In Weekend today you announce details of a competition in which Frances Bissell (known in this household as "The Blessed Frances") will cook the winner a dinner for six in his or her own home.

Sir, this is no competition which any of your sane readers would wish to enter. We calculate the costs as follows:

refurbishing kitchen, £3,500; professional cleaning of cooker, £150; new kitchen utensils and equipment, £400; table linen (damask), £150; new cutlery (dinner service is OK), £450; champagne for Tom Bissell in front room, £45; pre-dinner drinks for accompanying Times staff, £45 (at least). Total, £4,740.

Under the circumstances we shall not be entering.

Yours sincerely,  
TED GORTON,  
V. A. GORTON,  
81 Allwood Avenue,  
Scarning, Dereham, Norfolk,  
October 5.

## Out of bounds?

From Mr Richard B. Miller

Sir, As an average club golfer who was adopted at an early age, I find offensive the decision of a Surrey golf club to exclude from a family competition the adopted son of his golfing mother (report, October 8). It is neither in the spirit of companionable sport or of the family ethos.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD B. MILLER,  
8 Freemantle Court, Eaton Socon,  
St Neots, Cambridgeshire,  
October 8.

From Dr A. W. M. Ward

Sir, Will a DNA test be necessary in future for competitors in family tournaments at the Burhill Golf Club?

Yours sincerely,  
A. W. M. WARD,  
11 Rammoor Crescent, Sheffield,  
October 8.

From Mr Ken Broad

Sir, Burhill Golf Club's strange behaviour would appear more credible were they to insist in future that all competitors be blood-tested as a check on paternity. I cannot help feeling there might be the odd surprise from time to time — even in Walton-on-Thames.

Yours faithfully,  
KEN BROAD,  
Manor Court,  
Church Aston, Newport, Shropshire,  
October 8.

From Mrs Carole Richardson

Sir, Who would want to have the secretary of Burhill Golf Club as a natural parent?

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLE RICHARDSON,  
7 Spicers Field, Oxshott, Surrey,  
October 8.











International production demands have brought blight

## Losing focus on the colossus of Rhodes

What is killing Rhodes? First of all I thought it was the co-production blight. American money in a British television series almost always takes on the flavour. The affluence is brushed aside, the obvious is stressed, wellingtons have to be explained as a kind of boot, Waterloo as a railway station in London. The danger is that the theme-park-Britain approach can quickly take over.

That's what happened in *The Buccaneers*, the BBC's bosomy flop based on the unfinished novel by Edith Wharton, and made in alliance with Boston's WGBH.

Something has to explain such an extensive disaster. On second thoughts, I still blame co-production, but for different reasons. There are not one but three foreign partners involved: the South African as well as the Canadian and American public broadcasters contributed toward the £10 million it cost Zenith to make the monster series for the BBC. Once that many worthies are involved, each with its own perspective to be accommodated, a sharp focus disappears. Frequent hand-sweeps towards the map of Africa — "Germans here, Portuguese here" and (gesturing from bottom to top) "Cape to Cairo" — help nobody in Pretoria or Peoria.

The main problem, however, can be summed up in two words: epic drama. Trying to make history into a personal story is risky unless it's Henry V or Gandhi. The dialogue swiftly deteriorates to the "Mr Hitler, I would like you to meet Mr Mussolini" level. The present series is not helped by the fact that Rhodes seems to have been a creep, with a hard-to-dramatise wish not to get married. Instead of all those sub-titled scenes in Ndebele, we would have been better served if they merely flashed "latent homosexual" on the screen.

A slow start is a further risk for a blockbuster series. *People's Century*, another of the BBC's mega-mega co-ventures with WGBH, had to unload a lot of information before it could get going. Its focus — telling the events of the century through the eyes of individuals who lived through them — meant starting with the most unphotogenic people in the world: the extremely aged. What struck the viewer was not that they had stormed the Winter Palace, but that they were still alive.

That history series, now in its second year, has got better. I found *Master Race* a more moving account of the Holocaust than *Schindler's List* but not because of the survivors' heart-rending as it was, rather because of the fresh archive film unearthed

by Peter Pagnamenta's assiduous researchers. Those glowing Hitler maidens rising like flowers illustrated perfectly the false promise of the new Germany.

In Sunday's *Fall Out*, the Cold War American propaganda film teaching children to "duck and cover" to protect themselves from Russian hydrogen bombs, was far more informative than the eyewitness reports.

You have to hand it to the BBC for trying to teach history to a generation for whom John F. Kennedy is as remote as Lloyd George and whose response to the phrase "after the war" is "which war?" But to try to sweeten the lesson by personalising it does not work. No one individual is an adequate focus, not even Cecil Rhodes.

Trying to pitch to the world market means muting the British perspective, giving short shrift, for example, to the Irish 1916 Easter Rising and the formation of the National Health Service. The best approach to history is to tell it straight through archive film, not with expensively hunted-out eyewitnesses or even more expensive phoney dialogue.



BRENDA MADDOX

The BBC's own internal revolution gathers speed. The splitting of all its functions into two halves, one called Broadcast, the other Production, began this month. "Com-

pared to this," said one scarred veteran, "Producer Choice was just a pimple."

The operation, disclosed by John Birt, the Director-General, on June 6, is actually three revolutions in one. It separates the commissioning of programmes — deciding what to make and when to show them — from the making of them. At the same time, it merges radio with television by sliding the responsibility for radio programmes into these separate camps.

Also next April — unless stopped by the Foreign Office-led investigating committee — the English-language programmes of the World Service will also pass into the control of these two powerful arms.

The World Service merger, at least, is not a fait accompli. But I shudder at the BBC's ominous words about "bi-media" working at the heart of our efforts.

Matthew Bannister, the new head of BBC radio, insists that radio will not be treated as television without pictures. But can you imagine two such completely separate approaches as *People's Century* and *20/20: A View of the Century*, its prize-winning radio counterpart being tolerated in the bi-media future? I can't. I fear that the co-production blight will become an internal disease.

## Blair's speech scores own goal

TONY BLAIR'S evangelical conference speech did not swell the hearts of all his followers. While new Labour was busy slapping itself on the back over its leader's barnstorming address, it apparently went unnoticed that many of the party's Scottish comrades were mightily put out over his use of the "Labour's coming home" theme, a direct steal from Skinner and Baddiel's Euro 96 anthem for the England football team.

The Glasgow-based *Daily Record* ignored the soccer analogy in its conference report while *The Scotsman* grudgingly said Mr Blair had "ended with a blatant plagiarism of the unofficial anthem of this year's European Football Championship".

Now it transpires that Mr Blair's laddish reference was also lost on a member of his own Shadow Cabinet. Clare



Short: I don't get it

Short, the Shadow Minister for Overseas Development and not a football fan, mischievously admitted this week that she was mystified by it. "I didn't understand the Labour's coming home thing," she told Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*. "I had to ask the boys."

THE National Canine Defence League has come up with a cutting theory for the lack of press interest in its latest advertising campaign. Its posters, featuring the beseeching face of a Great Dane called Digger, urge dog owners to have their pets neutered

under the banner "Scooby Don't. A frisky dog means unplanned puppies".

Press officers were crestfallen when just one photographer turned up for the photoshoot. Selena Makepeace, the head of NCDL's public relations section, blames the weak stomachs of male news editors.

"Normally," she says, "our campaigns get very good national and regional coverage. I can't believe it's coincidental. When you mention castration to men they get very uncomfortable. I have seen male journalists positively flinch and cross their legs."

### Words and music

VICTOR LEWIS-SMITH, the dreadlocked TV critic variously described as a "comedy genius" and "complete bastard", has been signed up to exercise another of his talents, writing music for TV commercials. Lewis-Smith has already composed the tracks for several TV and radio commercials and programmes and has now joined the agency Music By Design.

He said: "In the past I've always declined but MBD is one in a million and, having said that, just maybe they'll take the gun away from my head." David Mindel, of

MBD, said: "He works fast, delivers on time and within budget and is singularly courteous to elderly viola players. He'll go far."

EMOTIONS are still running high over the toilet paper company Kimberly-Clark's brutal decision to ditch its ad agency, J. Walter Thompson, creator of the adorable Andrex puppy. Staff at JWT are said to be nothing short of devastated.

The company has twisted the knife further by announcing that the puppy will stay — but with Foote Cone Belding, which is now handling all creative advertising for consumer tissue products in Europe. "It just isn't fair," a tearful JWT insider said. "We created that puppy. We worked our butts off on that account."

### Bum's the word

BOTTOMS are looming large in the lives of Martini's advertising moguls. Photographs of fat bottoms, thin bottoms, and male and female bottoms are arriving by the sackload at its London offices in response to the latest ad campaign.

Martini has reinvented itself as "the beautiful people's drink" through a series of television adverts. It invited



Andrex puppy: take a walk

viewers to send in pictures of the parts of their body they considered to be most attractive. The best photographs will then be combined to produce a prototype of the perfect male and female body.

Thousands have already responded. "At least 50 per cent of the entries have been people's behinds and it's not just women, it's men as well," a Martini spokesman said.

"We want to say to people that we need more legs, eyes, noses and chests. We can't make a prototype of bottoms alone. Oh, and we've had only one ear."

## When laughter is the best messenger



Labour's puppet? John Major

THE LABOUR Party has recruited the services of the *Spitting Image* team to create a dramatically different party political broadcast (PPB) aimed at stealing John Major's thunder at this week's Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth.

The puppeteer duo of Peter Fluck and Roger Law, who no longer officially work together, have joined forces to produce the special PPB, which is scheduled for maximum impact on the eve of Mr Major's keynote address on Friday.

The broadcast features a full range of latex puppets in a spoof preview of Mr Major's speech, highlighting the Prime Minister's supposed record of failure to date on the five key areas of crime, housing, education, taxation and economy.

Sources claim that the PPB marks a significant departure from the usual, rather more dreary party political mission statements — being both

### ADVERTISING

entertaining and likely to hold viewers for longer than the first few frames.

ADLAND has gone star crazy, with an unprecedented glut of celebrities appearing in advertisements at the moment. In any given commercial break, viewers can see Mel Smith promoting Visa Delta, Billy Connolly plugging the new British Gas affinity card, Nicholas Lyndhurst playing various roles for WH Smith or a veritable galaxy of stars working on behalf of BT.

And while Abbott Mead Vickers triumphantly secured Henry Kissinger for an ad for The Economist last week, this week Bartle Bogle Hegarty reveals none other than John McCarthy, the former Beirut hostage, to be the star of the new One 2 One commercials after Kare Moss.

PITY THE poor folk down at the Advertising Standards Authority. Not only are they having to deal with the usual tide of complaints from the public, they are also shouldering a swelling number of gripes from within the industry itself.

Recent ASA rulings, culminating in its latest order to stop the Tories demonising Tony Blair, have provoked adfolk to hurl all kinds of accusations at the watchdog, ranging from "political bias" through to "lack of teeth" and "inconsistent interpretation of guidelines".

Such is the frenzied level of dissatisfaction, however, that wiser, more senior adfolk have felt the need to step in and calm everyone down — in case politicians get wind of the self-regulatory system's shortcomings and start thinking dangerous thoughts about statutory controls.

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# Now it's Trevor the Entertainer

Trevor McDonald, ITN's genial five-nights-a-week presenter, is brushing up his ad-libs ready to host the National Television Awards. Carol Midgley reports

Tonight viewers of ITV will switch on their television sets to see the familiar features of Trevor McDonald smiling back at them. Nothing unusual there. For almost a decade the genial Trevor has been a linchpin of *News at Ten*, fronting it solo five nights a week for the past three years.

Tonight, however, is different. Tonight we meet not Trevor the Newscaster but Trevor the Entertainer, a journalist turned celebrity whose charm has made him such a housewives' favourite that he has been chosen in preference to the Jonathan Rosses and Chrises of the showbusiness world to host what immediately describes itself as the number one event in British television: the National Television Awards.

At the age of 56, greying and with no chat show or comedy credentials behind him, McDonald does not exactly fit the usual profile of host for such a razzmatazz TV event. Nor is his broadcasting style particularly robust or controversial; only last month he was reproached by the Independent Television Commission for being "too friendly" in his interview with John Major, a technique the Labour Party less generously described as "fawning".

It is no secret that BSkyB is more than keen to sign him up and, although denied officially, BBC insiders insist there is more than a passing interest in poaching ITN's golden boy. ITN is rumoured to have hit back by swiftly raising McDonald's salary to £200,000. He has been assured that his portfolio will be widened beyond the world of mere newscasting into more adventurous territory. Last month, true to its word, ITV picked him to host its 1997 programme presentation for advertisers at the London Palladium, a key corporate event. He is clearly a hot property —

illustrated by the fact that he was accompanied by not one but two press officers while being interviewed by *The Times*. Ask him if it is true that he is being pursued by rival channels, however, and McDonald demonstrates that the years of talking to politicians have not been wasted. He knows exactly how not to answer a question. "Broadcasting is a very small world. From time to time we all get contacted by other companies," said Trevor the Diplomat. "I am happy doing my job at ITN and for the time being I am happy to stay here."

Does that mean he is not ruling

'Somehow you have to make the news sound interesting'

out defecting at some stage? "Well, they might decide they want to change things round in a few years. I really enjoy what I do. It makes the job a lot easier when you are doing well."

He concedes that doing the National Television Awards is a way of satisfying a spot of wanderlust. "From time to time it is rather nice to do other things. This one is nice because it is about the industry. It is lovely to be asked."

"You do get tired in the job. For instance, today will be a 13-hour day and you can't do too many of those. It's often not until the weekend that you realise how tired you are. I am not bored with it, though. I still think there is a skill in presenting the news in an interesting way, but if I knew what it was I would bottle it and sell it. I think the trick is that you have to make sure that what you do and say is accessible to people. You have to make it interesting, keep people thinking this is something they need to know."

"Obviously it is more difficult when you are dealing with the

labyrinthine arguments of the single currency. You are never going to get them jumping up and down in their living rooms shouting, 'Great! It's the single currency', but those are still issues which have to be dealt with."

Since being asked to host the event, McDonald has been practising in his mind how he will present it. "I don't think I make a very good comedian, so I am not going to try to be Bruce Forsyth or Terry Wogan. I have been thinking about it over the past few months and I think I know how I'm going to do it. After doing *News at Ten* you do begin to lose the nervousness, but this is different, this is entertainment rather than information — it's about trying to convey a different kind of excitement. It is rather frightening."

The climate is certainly favourable for McDonald's career advancement — newsreaders make the news almost as often as they present it. Anna Ford was recently publicly criticised for being too aggressive while interviewing Kenneth Clarke on Radio 4's *Today* programme. Does McDonald agree that interviewers are too pushy?

"That is an old argument," he says, following the platinum rule of never snitching on your mates. "It has been said about journalists for years. I remember when Robin Day asked Harold Macmillan a domestic question and Macmillan just looked at him and said, 'Wrong time, wrong place'. There will always be jousts between journalists and politicians."

So would he have done the "gushing" Major interview any differently with the benefit of hindsight? "No, not really. I am a great self-critic and I always go over things I have done."

"You know when you have done things badly and when you have done things well. You have to learn from that."

"There are different styles of interviews. We all try to be professional to get at the truth. You have to think what do we want to find out here and what's the best approach to get the information?"

● The National Television Awards are on ITV tonight at 8pm



Trevor McDonald: "I still think there is a real skill in presenting the news, but if I knew what it was I would bottle it and sell it"

## Meet the specialists in party-speak

Real stories are hard to come by during party conference season, says Simon Brooke, because the news is stage-managed by the spin-doctors

The annual party conferences can be either a week-long party political broadcast or a public washing of dirty laundry. Either way, as all the parties know, the real audience for these annual seaside extravaganzas is not the adoring masses within the hall but the voters sitting at home. What the most important audience sees of the politicians will be conveyed to it by journalists, and those journalists — more demanding, more sceptical and more abundant than ever before — are serviced by the parties' press officers and spin-doctors.

This time last year, on these pages, I looked at the parties' communications teams and how they were performing during the conferences. The theme then was very much steady-as-she-goes; war of peaking too soon, the parties were consolidating support and laying the foundations for a year of campaigning. This year's conferences are election launchpads, and all three parties have pulled out all the stops.

A significant change has been in the parties' communications teams. All of them are now bigger and better resourced (natural at this stage of the political cycle) but

there are key changes in staff. Joy Johnson has left Labour after an unhappy stint in charge of rebuttal. The Tories, meanwhile, have acquired a new communications director, Charles Lewington, from the *Sunday Express*, and Jane Bootham-Carter, the former editor of Channel 4's *A Week in Politics*, has been appointed the Liberal Democrats' director of media.

In terms of party organisation, Labour could hardly have had a better week. One journalist compared it to a Tory party conference of the Eighties — high praise indeed. Blair's speech, awkwardly placed on the Tuesday, earned very good reviews even from the Tory press: "The best speech Blair has ever made," wrote Trevor Kavanagh, the political editor of *The Sun*, while Simon Heffer in the *Daily Mail* praised the Labour leader's "charisma, sincerity and sheer power".

But at times the media clearly took the view that good news is no news. "Spills, leaks, arguments — that's real news, this is just PR," said one old hack disconsolately. The frus-

tration of some journalists at having no "real news" was evident at times: Nick Clarke, presenter of Radio 4's *The World at One*, appeared almost tetchy about the lack of divisions when interviewing shadow ministers. On Friday, the BBC's *One O'Clock News* report included a rebellious speech from a young London activist simply because it was rebellious, and Michael White of *The Guardian* noted that the party's draft manifesto had been passed by an "Albanian" 95 per cent.

The Tories this week had no such problems. Indeed, most of their spinning has taken the form of damage limitation. The Ian Greer/Neil Hamilton affair dominated the weekend, and meant that the Prime Minister on *Breakfast* with Frost, and other senior spokesmen — Stephen Dorrell on Jonathan Dimbleby and Brian Hawthorne on *On The Record* — had almost no time to lay out any positive themes for the week. Monday, always



Lewington: Tory voice

difficult for the Tories because their conference sessions do not start until Tuesday, saw more stories in the same vein, together with the news that the former party treasurer, Lord McAuliffe of West Green, was defecting to Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party. However, senior party managers are determined to get onto the front foot and create some good-news stories this week. "The week has been

charted out in news management terms," explained a senior party source. "The Cabinet has been informed of this. There is ruthless centralisation and co-ordination of announcements. Those that might not get a big play on the day because they conflict with other big initiatives will be moved forward."

"In previous years there was substance in ministers' speeches but it dribbled out willy-nilly. There will be substantive practical announcements which, subject to the House of Commons, will be law before the general election. The contrast between us and Labour is that they make promises while we deliver."

The biggest change this year, however, centres on the Prime Minister. Previously, John Major's personal view was that any interviews would detract from his Friday speech. However, given that his poll ratings remain consistently above those of his party, Tory strategists have ensured

that the Prime Minister will be much more vocal. After his appearance with Sir David Frost on Sunday there was extensive briefing from his speech to party agents on Monday night and today he will take part in an hour-long question-and-answer session with representatives — "a real one" adds the Tory source, referring to Major's all too cosy and misdisparaged "in the round" Q&A sessions during the last election.

Similarly, Paddy Ashdown is seen by his team as one of their greatest assets and was also much interviewed during the week. The perennial problem for the Liberal Democrats, however, is that journalists are less interested in their policies and more interested in their strategy, this time whether they would collaborate with Labour.

"Certain stories are going to be covered and there is nothing you can do about that,"

apparent than ever: "The parties have been geared up for a while in case of a dash to the polls in the autumn. Certainly there are more spin-doctors around this year and they are making more of an effort to chat people up." These conferences, Mr Boulton suggests, reveal that "the campaigns are going to be more disciplined and stage-managed than ever before with a warm, smiley campaign fought on television and featuring the leaders. Journalists who find 'real' stories will be under a lot of pressure from the spin-doctors."

## Tabloids revel in the war of the Windsors

Editors rise or fall by their daily judgment of the stories that sell newspapers. When *The Sun* devoted its front page two Saturdays ago to a "spoiler" about the Duchess of York, aimed at pre-empting the *Daily Mirror's* serialisation last week of her taped conversations with Madame Vasso, its sale lifted by 100,000.

When the *Daily Mirror* decided to ignore the Duchess' loss of her eight babies, Tory divisions on Europe and an Ulster bomb scoop, it got a bigger sales boost than *The Sun*, which led on "Fergie's final shame".

So one television soap opera briefly outdid Britain's supersoap, *Life with the Windsors*. It is certainly as a soap opera that the unfolding dramas of Diana, Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York, are seen by Anthony Holden, the veteran royal commentator, each Sunday as he writes his Monday column for the *Express*.

"Many readers live their lives by proxy and identify with all the Queen's family problems," he says. "I get hundreds of letters and it's as if my correspondents are discussing characters in a soap opera. The royals have now taken on

the role of a supersoap."

Even with the Labour Party conference, Mandy Allwood's loss of her eight babies, Tory divisions on Europe and an Ulster bomb scoop, it got a bigger sales boost than *The Sun*, which led on "Fergie's final shame".

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PAPER ROUND Brian MacArthur

people, however foolish, does not deprive them of the right to be treated with dignity, even if you think they don't deserve sympathy."

According to Porter, a moment had arrived when we should examine the torment that we silently condoned by buying the *Daily Mirror* and the *Sun*. "If we cannot find some sympathy for this distressed and foolish person and thereby reform our gloating taste, we must institute a procedure that allows royalty some peace, to say nothing of their children." That sympathy for the Duchess was echoed by other

commentators, particularly Suzanne Moore in *The Independent*, who detected in the treatment of Fergie, Allwood and Paula Yates a "profound misogyny" playing itself out as mass entertainment.

New revelations, each still more sordid, spill out day by day. On Monday *The Sun* reported that the Queen had drawn up a deal to pay off the Duchess and make her give up her daughters. Yesterday, still more sensationally, it published pictures recorded on a snoopers' video of Diana "trotting" with

James Hewitt during their affair. Meanwhile, newspapers will be bidding this week for the rights to serialise Fergie, *Her Secret Life* — in which bids are expected to reach £500,000 — and a newspaper buyer is being sought for her official autobiography, also due to be published next month.

Only a few years ago the Press Complaints Commission would have been besieged with complaints about the *Daily Mirror* and the *Sun*, as it was when *The Sunday Times* serialised Andrew Morton's book, *Diana, Her True Story*. Yet there was only a handful of complaints to the PCC about the *Daily Mirror* last week, compared with more than 400 after its anti-German Euro 96 front page, and at 4pm yesterday there had been no complaint about *The Sun*. Either there has been a coarsening of public sensitivity or the

public thinks Diana and Fergie are often the agents of tabloid stories and bring their "crucifixion" upon themselves.

Yesterday *The Sun* defended its decision to publish by arguing that any embarrassment to the Princess was tiny compared to her satisfaction at knowing she was right about the dirty tricks being played on her. "The Princess can draw one consolation from this nasty mess," it said. "At least she's well shot of the Windsors and the dirty snoopers." You can understand the message within that sentence by reading between the lines.

Only the Editors of *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror* know the sources of their stories, but many of us would be surprised if we knew who they were. The tabloids have become agents in the war of the Windsors and subsequent history has proved them right.

There is a hypocrisy in our criticism of the tabloids. We condemn only after we have avidly read every new revelation but Lawson, Porter and Moore are right. We do gloat and the papers are becoming sadistic, but mercy is in short supply in 1996.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9 1996

## British companies pour millions into electing Dole

BY ALAN DAIR MURRAY

BRITISH companies are spending millions of dollars helping Bob Dole to reach the White House and the Republican Party to preserve its majority in Congress.

Political spending associated with the US subsidiaries of leading British companies has totalled about \$3.35 million during the current election round - which includes the Presidential race and Congressional elections.

Around 60 per cent of this money, \$2.1 million, has been directed towards the Republican Party, while the Democrats have received

\$560,000 from British-owned companies. The balance reflects administrative costs and donations to other political organisations.

Major UK companies are now spending more on supporting American political parties than they are on UK political donations. Political donations made by FT-SE 100 companies declined to just £760,000 last year, compared with a high of £1.14 million in 1991.

A number of companies that have recently ended donations to the Conservative Party are big spenders. These include Glaxo Wellcome, which is the second-largest British contributor in the US, with its

**TOP 5 UK DONORS**

BAT Industries	\$730,000
Glaxo Wellcome	\$680,000
Price Waterhouse	\$390,000
BP	\$315,000
Zeneca	\$290,000

related political spending totalling \$680,000 in this election cycle.

The largest British donor in the United States is BAT Industries, which is associated with \$730,000 of political expenditure made by Brown and Williamson, its tobacco subsidiary, and Farmers, its California-based insurance business.

The vast majority of this money has flowed from Brown and Williamson to the Republican Party, reflecting the company's battle with the Clinton administration over tough anti-smoking regulations introduced in the summer.

A total of 25 British companies have contributed to US political parties in the past two years, according to documents filed with the Federal Election Commission in Washington. Eight of these have spent more than \$100,000.

The other major British contributors have subsidiaries concentrated

in sectors that are highly regulated or have been at the centre of legislative battles. These include Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham, Shell and BP, and Price Waterhouse.

The most popular candidate with British companies is Jesse Helms, senator for North Carolina, and chairman of the powerful Senate foreign relations committee.

Other candidates who attracted financial support from British companies include Senator Alfonse D'Amato, who has led the Whitewater inquiry, and Thomas DeLay, chief whip in the House of Representatives, a fierce critic of the

US Environmental Protection Agency. Under US election law, companies are not allowed to contribute directly to candidates but can contribute through political action committees (PACs), or through "soft money" donations.

Company PACs draw their funds from an optional levy on employees' salaries - similar to the trade union levy system in this country. Soft money payments can come direct from company funds and include donations and services provided to the party executive rather than directly to the candidate.

\$2bn campaign, page 29

### BUSINESS TODAY

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

FTSE 100	4035.6	(+4.1)
Yield	3.88%	
FTSE All share	1578.22	(+0.77)
Nikkei	21038.52	(-122.48)
New York		
Dow Jones	8683.91	(+4.10)
S&P Composite	702.68	(+0.88)

**US RATE**

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	89 1/2%	(89 1/2%)
Yield	8.70%	(8.70%)

**LONDON MONEY**

3 month Libor	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Life long gilt	110%	(110%)
Future (Dec)		

**STERLING**

New York	1.5638*	(1.5637)
London		
DM	1.8832	(1.8838)
DM	2.3872	(2.3931)
FF	8.0654	(8.0661)
FF	1.0561	(1.0565)
Yen	173.95	(173.98)
E Index	85.8	(87.1)

**\$\$\$ DOLLAR**

London		
DM	1.8270*	(1.8308)
FF	8.1610*	(8.1720)
FF	1.2509*	(1.2544)
Yen	111.30*	(111.13)
E Index	97.3	(97.4)

Tokyo close Yen 111.08

**NORTH SEA OIL**

Brent 15-day (Dec)	62.85	(63.90)
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**GOLD**

London close	\$381.15	(\$380.85)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Clarke blocks £613m payout by Reuters

By ROBERT MILLER AND CARL MORTISHED

REUTERS, the news agency and financial information group, was forced to suspend plans to give £613 million back to its shareholders today, after the Treasury closed a legal loophole with immediate effect yesterday.

Kenneth Clarke took the City by surprise when he announced that, in view of the growing loss of tax through schemes involving companies buying their own shares or paying special dividends, a provision would be included in the next Finance Bill. The move effectively blocks a number of planned cash payouts.

Reuters was due to seek approval from shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting today for the creation of a new class of special dividend share. Now the media group will ask shareholders at today's egm to

adjourn consideration of the special share issue. It said the cash payout would be reconsidered when the company's advisers had examined the legislation, which is not expected until next year.

Reuters's novel share scheme, announced last month, is believed to have prompted the Chancellor's decision. The special dividend shares would have allowed the company to hand back net dividends worth 750p per share over three years, thus avoiding payment of extra Advance Corporation Tax.

Companies that earn most of their profits outside of the UK, like Reuters, face the problem of paying extra tax under the ACT imputation system as they do not pay enough mainstream corporation tax to offset against ACT payments on dividends.

The Reuters special dividend share would have entitled non-taxpayers and pension funds to a tax credit of 150p per share. If all investors had been entitled to the refund the Reuters scheme might have cost the Inland Revenue £153 million.

A number of banks, including Barclays and NatWest, have spent collectively almost £1 billion this year in special share buyback schemes. Barclays said: "We will continue to use the purchase of our shares as one of the mechanisms for managing the overall equity element of the bank's capital base."

Mr Clarke, who estimated that the Treasury stands to gain an extra £400 million in a full tax year by closing the loophole, said: "We have seen recently companies buying their own shares or paying special dividends in such a way that the proceeds end up almost entirely in the hands of those who are entitled to payment of a tax credit."

In a separate development, advisers to SHV, the Dutch company that yesterday launched a bid for Calor Group, were re-examining the price of the 300p offer, which includes a special dividend of 40p. The offer indicates that the bid is worth 310p to non-taxpayers, including a 10p tax credit on the special dividend.

A spokesman for SBC Warburg, which is advising both Reuters and SHV, suggested that the Chancellor might be forced to push back the timing of his new ruling to exclude payouts that have already been announced. "This amounts to retrospective legislation," he said.

Reuters shares slipped 22p, to 755p, on news that the payout was under threat.

Accountants gave a mixed, but generally unfavourable, response to the Chancellor's announcement. Ernst & Young said the tougher tax rules "go too far", while Deloitte & Touche said that "many innocent non-taxpayers will also be affected".

Alistair Darling, Labour's Shadow Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The failure to close this loophole has cost the taxpayers dear. The privatised utilities have been one of the worst offenders."

Pennington, page 27



## Gallaher set for London market listing

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN'S leading tobacco company is heading for a quote on the London stock market after an announcement by American Brands, the US consumer conglomerate, that it is spinning off Gallaher, its UK tobacco subsidiary.

The quote will give the London market its second leading tobacco company following the successful flotation of Imperial Tobacco last week which is now worth just over \$2 billion.

Gallaher's sales of 43.62 billion cigarettes worth \$6.5 billion for the year to June 30, make it the UK market leader with top-selling brands such as Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut as well as Hamlet cigars and Old Hoborn rolling tobacco. Peter Wilson, Gallaher chairman and chief executive, said the company had high cash flow and the market focus necessary to continue its growth in Britain and Europe.

With 39 per cent of the British market, its nearest competitor is Imperial with 37.7 per cent.

Thomas Hays, chairman and chief executive of American Brands, said the move would enhance the value of both new companies which are currently undervalued by investors.

American Brands sold its US tobacco interests to BAT Industries in 1994. "Selling its UK tobacco interests is a logical next step," said Robert Cummins, tobacco analyst at Schroder Wertheim. The group will now change its name to Fortune Brands following the demerger. To reallocate American Brands' outstanding debt, Gallaher will pay \$1.4 billion to its former parent.

American Brands shareholders will be issued with new shares in each company with Gallaher shares paying an initial dividend of 77p and Fortune Brands paying \$2. American Depository Receipts in Gallaher will be traded in the US to make the company more attractive to US investors.

Tempus, page 28

## British Energy to shed 1,300 jobs

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Energy, the privatised nuclear-power generator, is expected to announce today large-scale job losses that could see cuts of up to 25 per cent of the company's workforce.

The company is set to make cuts of between 1,300 and 1,500 jobs, claiming it must reduce costs in a highly competitive market for electricity generation. Senior managers told union leaders privately of the move last week.

It will embarrass ministers at the Conservative party conference in Bournemouth on the day Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, praises Britain's industrial performance under the Tories.

The cuts are expected to be concentrated mainly at the headquarters at Barnwood, Gloucestershire, of Nuclear Electric, which with Scottish Nuclear is one of BE's two wholly owned subsidiaries. Union leaders believe up to 600 jobs at Barnwood could be lost.

In addition, the unions understand that the company is to announce the closure of two training centres - Agceroft in Lancashire, and Cliff's Quay in Ipswich. No cuts are expected at Scottish Nuclear.

Tony Cooper, general secretary of the 32,000-strong Engineers' and Managers' Association, said: "This is appalling news for those who have to be sacked so that shareholders can enjoy healthy dividends in the short term."

"The industry was sold at a knockdown price after output was artificially boosted to make the profitable side of the nuclear industry look good on the stock market. We warned that the price for this unjustified and unnecessary self-off would have to be paid by the very staff who made the sale possible," he said.

John Battle, Shadow Energy and Industry Minister, said: "Assurances given during the privatisation process that BE would not need to make job cuts on this scale are in tatters."

Pennington, page 27

Lady Nott, wife of Sir John Nott, the former Defence Secretary, sees off a supply convoy for Bosnia. Contributing companies include Booker, Hillsdown, Tate & Lyle and Northern Foods

## Transfers help United as team bill soars

THE player salary bill at Manchester United is to rise by £5 million this year, an increase of more than 60 per cent according to analysts (Jason Nisse writes).

The salary rise was revealed as United announced pre-tax profits down £4.7 million at £16.7 million for the year to July 31. After transfer fees the profits actually rose

£418,000, despite the redevelopment of the Old Trafford stadium cutting capacity.

Earnings per share were 18.4p, down 5p, and a final dividend of 3.6p payable on December 2 makes 52p in total, up 16 per cent. The City expects profits to rise to over £23 million this year.

Pennington, page 27

## Eurotunnel back live Nobel for tax theorist

BY GEORGE SIVELL

EUROTUNNEL shares returned from suspension just 8 1/2p lower, at 105p, when trading resumed yesterday following the announcement of the terms of the rescue plans. The shares traded between 105p and 124p, a far cry from the all-time high of £11.64.

Analysts said that under the terms of the restructuring the worst-case scenario was that present Eurotunnel shareholders would hold 40 per cent of the equity by 2003.

Monday's £4.7 billion restructuring plan has yet to be approved by shareholders and the syndicate of 225 banks supporting Eurotunnel. Adact, a French shareholder group, said it amounted to a "declaration of war" by the banks on shareholders. However, Patrick Ponsolle, Eurotunnel co-chairman, said: "Thanks to the financial restructuring, the possibility of a strong increase in the share price in the long-term can now be envisaged."

BY OLIVER AUGUST

JAMES MIRRLEES, the Cambridge University professor of political economy, has won the Nobel prize in economics for his work on the power of taxation to motivate.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said it was awarding Professor Mirrlees and William Vickrey, a Canadian economist, the £750,000 prize "for their fundamental contributions to the economic theory of incentives under asymmetric information". Professor Mirrlees, 60, said: "My subject has always been economics and human welfare. It is a delight to have it recognised."

His concern for the optimum tax level that maintains a person's incentive to work is typically a Tory issue, but he believes tax rates in Britain "could reasonably be higher, particularly for middle-income earners".

Winner hailed, page 26

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# Nobel winner hailed by fellow economists

By OLIVER AUGUST

ECONOMISTS last night hailed Professor James Mirrlees, this year's Nobel prize winner, as one of the country's most distinguished academics who is nevertheless almost unknown to the wider public.

"He is a leading economic theorist on a wide range of issues," said Martin Weale, director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and one of the

Treasury's panel of independent advisers. "He avoided macro-forecasting, so he's not as well known as some economists."

Mr Weale, who once had offices next to Professor Mirrlees at Cambridge, described him as a "slightly austere Scotsman but an extraordinarily nice person".

An economist at the London Business School, who had also worked with him, said: "He probably has the highest status among graduate stu-

dents and the profession of anybody I've ever met."

Economists singled out for praise the work that he co-wrote in 1974 called *Project Appraisal and Planning*. "It became almost the bible for people looking to invest in developing countries," said Mr Weale.

Prof Mirrlees, 60, was rather more shy about his success. He said: "It's really exciting solving a problem, a bit embarrassing to get a prize."

In his research Professor Mirrlees

modelled incentive structures in tax systems, insurance markets, auctions and credit allocation. The academy said: "For example, a bank does not have the complete information about lenders' future income. The owners of a firm may not have the same detailed information about costs and competitive conditions as the managing director."

He solved this problem with a flash of academic inspiration almost 30 years ago when he cracked a

complex formula by William Vickrey, the Canadian economist who is the co-winner of the prize.

Prof Mirrlees spent 27 years at Oxford University and likes reading detective stories. He is a grandee in Britain's economics establishment and was president of the Royal Economic Society from 1989 to 1992.

A widower with two daughters, he was educated at Edinburgh University and Trinity College Cambridge, where he read mathematics.

## Contract for M40 awarded

Britain's biggest "privatised" road contract, a £100 million widening and maintenance franchise for the London to Birmingham M40, was awarded yesterday by the Highways Agency.

The 30-year Private Finance Initiative contract was won by the UK Highways M40 consortium, which has Hyder Welsh as a 40 per cent shareholder. Other backers are Tarmac, John Laing and two French companies.

## Profits down

Lyons Irish Holdings, the tea group based in the Irish Republic in which Unilever has a 75 per cent interest, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits for the year to August 17 to £18.5 million from £19 million. Earnings per share fell to 12.45p from 12.64p. A final dividend of 11p, payable on December 13, lifts the total to 12.25p from 12.35p.

## Law inquiry

The role played by Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young, the accountants, in drafting Jersey's limited liability partnerships law is to be investigated by a committee of inquiry. Although the law was approved by the States of Jersey two weeks ago, the use of London QCs in its drafting, alleged to have cost the accountancy firms in excess of £1 million, has raised concerns.

## Bowing out

Sir Gerald Whent, 69, is to retire as chief executive of Vodafone in December after 13 years at the helm. He is to be replaced by Chris Gent, 48, an executive director of Vodafone Group and managing director of Vodafone Ltd, its UK arm.

## Ban lifted

British Gas has lifted the ban on people over 70 owning its Goldfish credit card. The card's launch a month ago provoked a row with the 100,000-member Association of Retired and Persons Over 50, which claimed that it showed "unjustified bias against older people".

## Ashley move

Laura Ashley, the clothing and furnishings retailer, is to take direct control of its distribution from Federal Express at a cost of about £1 million. There will be no redundancies.



David Martell, left, Trafficmaster's chief executive, and Bill McIntosh, finance director, are in talks with four car manufacturers interested in the company's traffic jam warning system. In the six months to June 30, Trafficmaster suffered pre-tax losses of £1.42 million (£1.21 million). There is no interim dividend

## Labour 'would be forced to raise interest rates'

By OLIVER AUGUST

AN INCOMING Labour government would be forced to raise interest rates straight away to establish credibility in the light of inflation, an independent survey says.

The poll conducted by Reuters, which includes forecasts from 32 banks, think-tanks, and universities, predicts Labour's reaction would be swift but less draconian than the last Tory rate rises.

The average base rate forecast is for a rise to 6.6 per cent in September 1998 from the current 5.75 per cent. But a rise above 7 per cent under a Labour Chancellor has not been ruled out.

Alex Garrad, of UBS, said: "They'll inherit a consumer boom that has been stoked up by the Chancellor. We think they will have to raise rates higher and more aggressively than they would otherwise have done because of the timing of the election in the economic cycle."

Many economists believe a rate rise is inevitable whatever the election outcome after months of tension between the Treasury and the Bank of England over the appropriate level of borrowing costs.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is said to have held down base rates for political reasons to help a consumer recovery that will have to be

constrained by next year. But economists are divided over the extent to which economic recovery has filtered through to consumer spending, which means a higher inflation risk.

John Young, of Sanwa Bank, said: "Optimists on inflation argue that falling producer price inflation still has to feed through to the retail level. But I think we are seeing a return of the 'feel-

good factor'." Mr Young added: "Labour is trying to sell itself as the party of financial stability. If they did face an environment of rising inflation and didn't do something about it in the first part of their parliamentary term, their credibility in the markets would diminish pretty quickly."

The survey was conducted against the backdrop of a

Labour lead in the opinion polls. However, a rise in rates is still thought likely even under a Conservative government because of strengthening consumer spending.

Economists see few real differences on macro-economic policy between Labour and the Conservatives, predicting a broad continuation of present policies regardless of which party is in power.

THE European Commission is expected to announce today an investigation into whether a 3,000 billion lire (about £1.25 billion) restructuring plan by Alitalia, the Italian state airline, breaches EU rules.

The Italian Government had hoped to avoid scrutiny by claiming that it was acting in the same way as a private investor and that the capital injection did not count as state aid. But the Commission has rejected the claim. "If it is not a market investment it is by definition a state subsidy," an official said last night.

However, she emphasised that it was possible the rescue plan could be compatible with EU guidelines on state aid to the aviation sector. These include the requirements that the capital injection should be for restructuring costs to return a company to commercial viability.

The Commission has the power to veto state aid that it feels would harm competition. Alitalia incurred losses of 212 billion lire last year and it is believed that the company faces bankruptcy if the rescue plan does not go ahead.

A spokeswoman for Neil Kinnock, EU Commissioner for Transport, said that the investigation would be conducted as quickly as possible.

## State funds for Alitalia facing EC scrutiny

FROM LEVYA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Perpetual blesses Refuge merger

THE proposed merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly looks set to succeed after Perpetual, a leading Refuge shareholder and until yesterday an outspoken critic of the deal, gave its consent. Neil Woodford, Perpetual's senior investment manager, said he had reached the decision after considering the details of a sweetener offered by Refuge to quell a shareholder revolt. The sweetener addressed this concern by guaranteeing current shareholders a share in any surplus assets in part of Refuge's life fund if they were uncovered in the future.

Perpetual has a 7 per cent stake in Refuge. Other major shareholders, Britannic, with 11 per cent, and Prudential, with 6 per cent, have already accepted the improved offer. Refuge shareholders will vote on the offer at an extraordinary meeting next Wednesday.

### Greenbank edges up

DIFFICULT markets in Britain and northern Europe held Walker Greenbank, the wall coverings and fabrics group, to a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in the six months to July 31. At £4.4 million they compared with £4.2 million a year ago. Earnings per share were down 4 per cent to 2.42p, diluted by a 3 per cent higher tax rate and a 2 per cent increase in the issued share capital, but the interim dividend is maintained at 1.3p, payable on December 10.

### William Sinclair to grow

WILLIAM Sinclair Holdings, the garden products and pet stores group, is poised to make two acquisitions worth up to £15 million. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £5.23 million for the year to June 30. Tom Sinclair, chairman, said that with a cash pile of £7.5 million and cash flow of £555,000 it could call on £15 million. Earnings rose from 14.7p to 20.3p. A final dividend of 8p (7.6p) due on November 13 makes a total 8p (7.6p). The shares rose 1 1/2 p to 17 1/2 p.

### National Mutual soars

NATIONAL MUTUAL became Australia's first publicly listed life insurer yesterday in an impressive A\$3 billion (£1.52 billion) debut on the Australian stock exchange. The group's shares, which had been sold to retail investors at A\$1.50, ended the day at A\$1.80 in fierce trading as those who had missed out on the heavily oversubscribed offer scrambled for stock. The listing paves the way for the planned stock market float next year of Colonial Mutual Life.

### Intermediate ahead

INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the mezzanine finance provider, achieved a 5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £11.1 million in the six months to July 31. Core income was up 11 per cent to £5.6 million. The company said the buyout market remained active. New lending in the second half has been very strong, producing significantly higher fee income. ICG is lifting the interim dividend 12 per cent to 4.8p a share, payable from earnings that rose to 15.3p a share (14.9p).

### Irish exports boom

THE Irish Republic's trade surplus in May jumped to £1663 million from £1408 million in April, according to Central Statistics Office figures released yesterday. Preliminary figures for June suggest that exports were running at £12.64 billion, with imports at £11.73 billion, giving one of the biggest trade surpluses — £1910 million — in recent years, the CSO said. The May export figure of £12.489 billion was 5 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

### Brit buys Lloyd's agency

BENFIELD & REA Investment Trust (Brit), the Lloyd's investment vehicle chaired by Matthew Harding, vice-chairman of Chelsea FC, has teamed up with Electra Fleming to buy Stewart Syndicates, a Lloyd's managing agency, for an undisclosed amount in shares and cash. Brit and Electra Fleming are working in partnership with Stewart Syndicates. The first writs against names owing £500 million to Lloyd's are due to be issued at the High Court today.

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	1.08	1.08	Malta	0.006	0.001
Austria Sch	17.80	18.30	Netherlands Gld	2.831	2.891
Belgium Fr	52.15	47.85	New Zealand \$	2.41	2.19
Canada \$	2.222	2.052	Norway Kr	10.70	9.80
Cyprus Cyp£	0.785	0.705	Portugal Esc	202.50	204.00
Denmark Kr	8.72	8.82	S Africa Rd	7.67	6.87
Finland Mk	7.70	7.08	Spain Ptas	207.00	19.00
France Fr	8.47	7.82	Sweden Kr	10.97	10.17
Germany DM	2.24	2.33	Switzerland Fr	2.08	1.81
Greece Dr	301	306	Turkey Lira	140250	140500
Hong Kong \$	12.72	11.72	USA \$	1.861	1.881
Iceland	115	95			
Ireland Ir£	1.03	0.85			
Israel Shk	5.37	4.72			
Italy Lit	5479	2524			
Japan Yen	187.80	171.80			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

# "The chairmen's Not fit to run the company."

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## A gross misuse of public funds

□ ABOUT time too. The only fair complaint against the Chancellor's attack on the gross dividend scandal is that it has taken him at least a year too long to close a loophole so large that it must be visible from outer space. The Inland Revenue, so deft at plucking numbers from the air, reckons yesterday's change will eventually save £400 million a year. Yet share buybacks were introduced in 1996 alone appear to have attracted about £750 million in tax subsidies. Over two years, buybacks and special dividends paid in takeovers have probably extracted £1.75 billion from taxpayers for big pensions funds.

The glaring abuse of tax breaks evident in several electricity takeovers and Lloyds Bank's bid for Granada's offer for further in Granada's offer for those who could not exploit the loophole. The Treasury seems to have been stirred at last from torpor by the ingenious high-dividend share scheme devised by SBC for Reuters. This converted state subsidies from a one-off injection into a regular annual transfusion, siphoned from voters.

Such rules exploit tax rules on distributions, which cover anything going from a company to its shareholders except for demergers or repayments of nominal capital. Advance corporation tax covers the basic dividend tax due from shareholders. High-rate taxpayers pay more. But exempt holders such as pension funds, charities and people below the income tax threshold can claim the imputed dividend tax back at 20p for every 80p of net dividend.



If a distribution can be concentrated in their hands, then taxpayers have to subsidise the payout. So share buybacks were targeted at big pension funds (smaller charities and low-income investors not being worth bothering about). Funds were eager to co-operate since they earned a premium paid by the Exchequer. Indeed, fund managers desperate for short-term gains blackmailed many a company to pay up.

Tax-driven schemes distort behaviour and corrupt standards. Takeovers featuring special dividends were designed to give some shareholders more than others. They should have been outlawed by the City Takeover Panel if it was fulfilling a function worth preserving. Rightly, the Revenue has not attempted to interfere with special dividends paid to all shareholders. If companies think that is the best use of their money, there is nothing to stop them continuing to give it back. Even share buybacks remain feasible but, without subsidies, fewer will be justified in the interests of all shareholders.

Even members of pension funds, short-term beneficiaries of the gross dividend loophole, should not mourn its passing. Such gross abuse would have given powerful ammunition to the many enemies of pension funds' legitimate tax privileges. The sooner the corruption was cut out, the better.

A brake on the great uninsured  
□ ANYONE who, as a relatively new driver, has tried shopping around for car insurance knows that premiums vary wildly. This company will not quote at all for on-road parking. That one offers a contemptuous £1,000-plus a year on a car worth little more than five times that, a polite way of saying get lost and take your

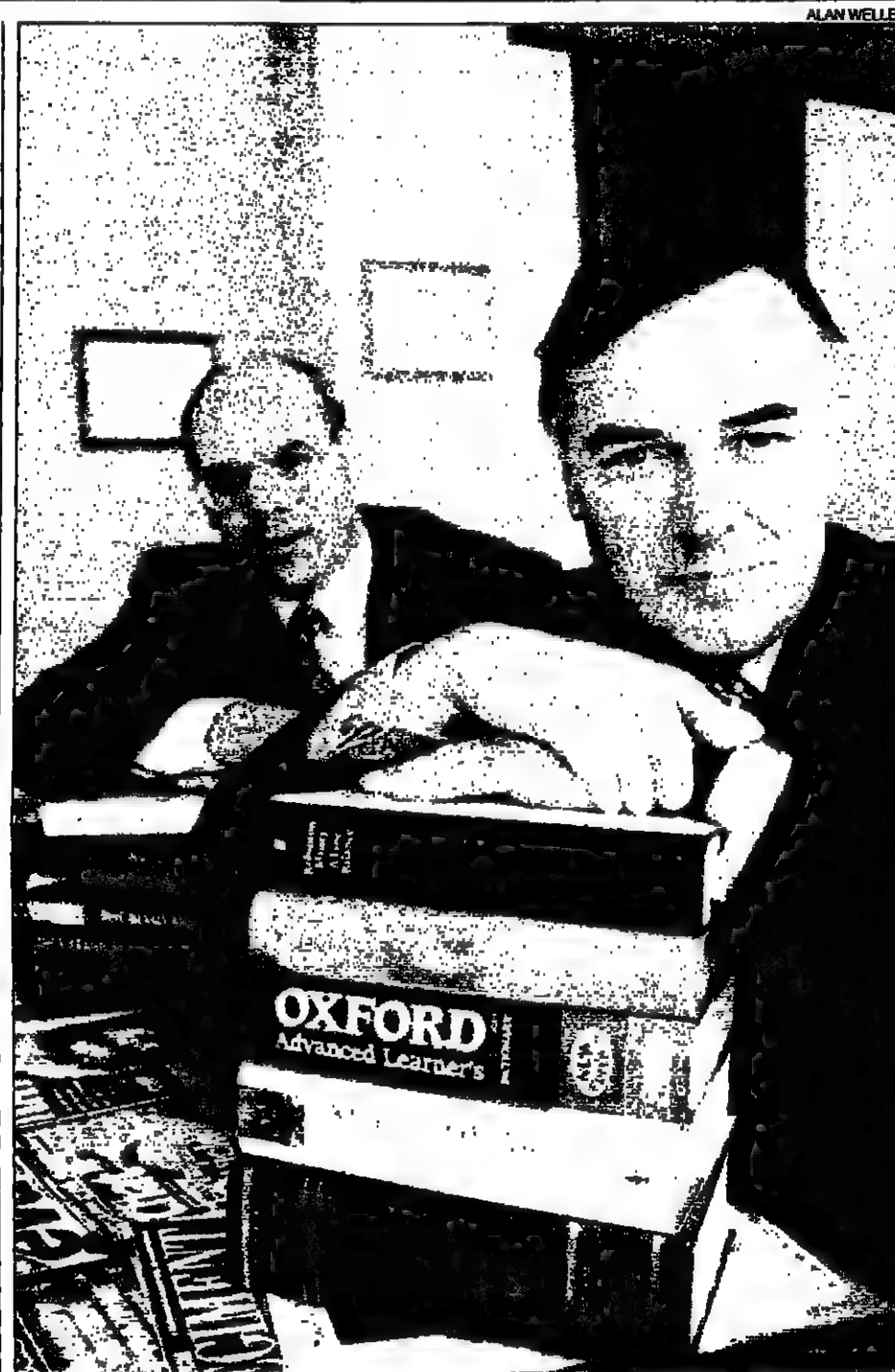
## LucasVarity stake sold for £129m to mystery investor

By PAUL DURMAN

A MYSTERY investor is believed to have taken a £129 million stake in LucasVarity, the recently merged car components manufacturer.

The block of 52.25 million shares, a stake of 3.65 per cent, was sold yesterday by the Lucas pension scheme. The shares were bought by stockbrokers at SBC Warburg, acting, it is thought, for a single purchaser.

The scale of the purchase puts it beyond all but a handful of the largest investment managers. The alternative explanation is that the stake has been bought by a rival company in the motor industry.



Miles Emley, chairman of St Ives, front, with Brian Edwards, chief executive

## Thorntons plans £30m expansion

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THORNTONS, the chocolate and confectionery manufacturer and retailer, has revealed an ambitious £30 million plan to open 90 shops by 2000, creating 550 full-time jobs. It hopes to lift its share of the premium chocolates market from 12 to 21 per cent.

At the same time, Thorntons reported that a £22 million exceptional charge pushed the company into the red. It made a loss of £13.8 million in the 12 months to June 29, compared to a £10.5 million profit in the previous year. The charge covers the disposal of its Belgian and French subsidiaries and the closure of some manufacturing facilities.

The company is increasing its capital expenditure by £10 million per year, to an annual £17 million, for three years to cover the cost of the refits and openings which will take the chain to 359 shops. Immediate plans are for 43 new and refitted shops and 60 shop refits before Christmas.

## St Ives delivers 19% advance

By NOEL FUNG

ST IVES, the leading British printer of The Bible and the Queen's biography, achieved a healthy 19 per cent growth in full-year profit to £42.2 million in line with market expectations.

Buoyed by increasing business in direct mail and commercial work, turnover shot up by 24.5 per cent to £328.8 million.

Since the company had to supply the paper in direct response and commercial work, increased turnover depressed the profit margin slightly from 13.5 per cent in 1995 to 12.8 per cent in 1996.

## Dutch raider puts spoke in Reed bid for Blenheim

By JASON NISSE

VNU, the Dutch publisher, yesterday put a spoke in the increasingly complex wheel of negotiations over the future of Blenheim Group when it bought a 15 per cent stake in the company in a dawn raid, paying 500p a share.

The raid forced Blenheim shares up to nearly 500p but they fell back after VNU said that it was not going to bid in the short-term. The shares ended at 464p, up 28p, valuing Blenheim at more than £440 million.

## M&C pays £81m for Britannia

By ERIC REGULY

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne Hotels yesterday paid £81 million for the Britannia Hotel in London, marking its first purchase since its April flotation, and said it expects to make more acquisitions in the near future.

Millennium bought the four-star, 318-room Britannia in Mayfair from Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts, the Japanese leisure group. The hotel made an operating profit of about £5.3 million in 1995 on turnover of about £17 million.

Pillows, duvets, sheets, blankets.  
Honestly, you're not dreaming.









# How US companies provide a flexible helping hand

The complex US electoral rules on party funding and donations are a legacy of the Watergate scandal in the 1970s. The rules were designed to make the system more transparent, but have fallen into increasing disrepute as the parties and interest groups, including corporations, have become more adept at exploiting loopholes.

Companies are not permitted to make direct donations to candidates to help with campaigns but can participate in the elections in two ways. First, companies can help to constitute political action committees (PACs). Corporate PACs

resemble the trade union levy in this country in that funds are normally raised through an optional levy on employee wages. The employees also normally elect a committee, constituted independently of the company, which decides to which candidates the money will be distributed.

Corporate PACs are limited to making a maximum donation of \$5,000 to individual candidates for each election, including party selection battles such as primaries. The effect of the tight donation cap has been for PACs to spread their money widely among the candidates, with Brown and Williamson,



BAT's tobacco subsidiary, supporting 206 candidates in the current set of elections and Glaxo funding 203. Money that is not donated to the

candidates but to the central party apparatus is described as soft money and can be donated directly from company funds. The restric-

tions on soft money funding are blurred, and soft money donations have risen relentlessly in recent years, provoking criticism of the unhealthy financial relationship between the political parties and interest groups. The growth of soft money has also resulted in vastly increasing the power of the central party organisations.

Companies can support the parties by providing direct donations for mobilising voters or administration, by offering services for free or by taking a table, costing anything up to \$200,000, at the various fund-raising dinners. United Airlines, for instance, sponsored the Democrats

convention centre in Chicago, while AT&T, the giant telecommunications company, spent more than \$1 million providing free phone services for both party conventions.

In the UK, direct donations to the parties are still legal, although the 1985 Companies Act requires corporations to disclose any direct and indirect political expenditure in its accounts. Donations made abroad, however, do not need to be declared. But there is growing pressure from corporate governance campaigners to force companies to seek the permission of shareholders before making political donations.



## Penny drops a little late

NEVER trust a man who waves a copy of *The Penny Share Guide*, the newsletter for small investors. This week's copy includes a telling tip: "Or what about top performer Pan Andean Resources? Imagine making a return of 680 per cent on an investment of £1,000... It means that in just 12 months your £1,000 could have made you £5,280 pure profit!"

Well boys, not any more it wouldn't. Pan Andean's share price plunged from 120p to 37p between Monday and Friday of last week. Oh, and the Stock Exchange is currently conducting an investigation into the drastic drop in the share price.

THE Chinese walls will be put to the test today when Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, speaks at the Conservative Party conference. Lang is busy studying the implications of British Airways' proposed alliance with American Airlines. He will be joined on the platform by Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, but wearing his Confederation of British Industry hat.

## B&B culture

THE Bradford & Bingley chief executive, Christopher Rodrigues, has abolished executive car parking at the building society's headquarters in Yorkshire. As an archetypal McKinsey man he also encourages "colleagues" to eat together at the canteen, where his penchant for cucumber and marmite sandwiches has established a cult following. Sporting a white shirt, another mark of a McKinsey clone, Rodrigues explains that because he works McKinsey hours, finding a parking place in the morning is not usually a problem.

JOLLY good news from Vodafone on the announcement of its new chief executive: Sir Gerald Whent went and has been replaced by a Gent.

## Outside price

MY STORY last week about Michael Kerridge, a deputy tax director at Barclays Bank, appealing against unfair dismissal, never made it to an industrial tribunal. At the eleventh hour, Barclays opted for an outside settlement. Instead, Kerridge will be sent a reference and tax-exempt compensation — enough to buy another Mercedes.

HAVING been unceremoniously dumped from the Forbes list of the 400 richest Americans during the 1990s when his business empire went into decline — the magazine said his net worth at the time was "within hailing distance of zero" — Donald Trump finds himself reinstated in the latest line-up. The magazine says that his fortune is estimated at \$450 million; Trump says \$2 billion.

MORAG PRESTON



Alfonse D'Amato, the New York senator, has backing from eight firms

# Party to \$2 billion cost of funding a political campaign



Newt Gingrich was awarded a total of \$11,000 from eight companies

The American political system has developed a voracious appetite for money. The last combined presidential and congressional campaign cost well in excess of \$1 billion and the expectations are that spending could reach \$2 billion by the time the current election campaign concludes next month.

About two thirds of the money is consumed by TV advertising as candidates use saturation tactics to ram home their message to the voters. The system has been likened to the arms race, with funding based not on need, but with each party building an ever-larger war chest to ensure its rivals cannot spend more.

Corporate funding, whether it is through Political Action Committees or "soft money", has become integral to the US political system. As some companies lavish ever-increasing sums on the main political parties, so other businesses have felt the need to participate to ensure their viewpoint is heard. The tobacco companies are desperate to combat the influence of the vociferous anti-smoking lobby, while the long-distance telecommunications companies, including AT&T and MCI, have been keen to neutralise the message of the regional Baby Bells.

British companies that own significant US operations have inevitably been drawn into the political sphere. BAT Industries is the largest British contributor to US political parties. Spending associated with its two main US subsidiaries, Brown and Williamson, the tobacco company, and Farmers, the insurer, total \$70,000 during the current election cycle.

Michael Pridoux, of BAT, is quite clear about the necessity of the company becoming a player on the Washington stage. "All US companies make political donations," he says. "It is the whole way of doing business in the US and shareholders expect us to behave like other companies."

It is difficult to relate directly corporate political spending with benefits. But, inevitably, those companies involved in politically sensitive or heavily regulated sectors have been the biggest spenders in recent years. The tobacco industry

has donated about \$20 million over the past ten years. But the level of spending has more than doubled since 1993, when the legal and legislative battles over tobacco regulation were renewed with presidential backing for anti-smoking objectives. Oil and gas companies, meanwhile, have spent about \$20 million in soft money seeking to combat tougher environmental legislation and the threat of an energy tax.

The record for political spending success is mixed. The Clinton presidency managed to push through some anti-smoking measures in the summer. On the other hand, the long distance telecommunications companies led by AT&T and MCI, in which BT holds a 20 per cent stake, managed to change a clause in the telecommunications bill that threatened to allow the regional Baby Bells to enter the long distance market without giving up their own local monopoly. MCI has

made donations worth almost \$750,000 in the current election cycle, with much of the spending in the last six months of last year while the bill was passing through Congress.

Corporations, of course, explain the benefits of such spending in terms of access rather than hard legislative achievements. An increasingly popular way to gain access is forking out for fundraising dinners, where business chiefs can rub shoulders with politicians.

Zeneca, the pharmaceutical group, has contributed about \$260,000 to these elections, including about \$120,000 in "soft money". Judith Auchard, of Zeneca's US subsidiary, says: "We usually contribute by taking a table at fundraising events. Politicians will be invited to the table, although we have no control of who will actually see us."

Mr Pridoux is more specific about the need for the company to express its point of view. "For

regulated businesses, it is in their interest to contribute funds. The donations enable companies such as Brown and Williamson to inform debate on the issues such as tax, small government and regulation, which affect the company."

Most of the money has been channelled recently into the

## Alasdair Murray looks at the big spenders in the donation stakes

Republican Party, but unlike in the UK, where donations to more than one party have been rare, some form of double donation is the norm. In part, this reflects the relatively small political differences between the two main parties. The Democrats are just as eager for campaign money and, with

trade union funding providing a relatively modest proportion of the party's needs, it has always fostered links with business. It also reflects the desire of companies to hedge their bets — after all, even on apparently politicised issues such as smoking or healthcare reform, corporations can normally find some Democrats who support their view.

Glaxo — associated with spending totalling \$680,000 this election — contributed nearly \$90,000 to the Democrats, compared with \$400,000 to the Republicans. The money was donated in spite of a Democrat leading the fight to close the loophole which has allowed the company a three-year extension on the US patent of Zantac, its bestselling drug.

The company has also faced an investigation by the Food and Drug Administration into prices charged by the pharmaceutical companies to small chemists in addition to the

long-running battle over healthcare reform.

The contrast between the situation in the US, where corporate political spending continues to spiral upwards, and the UK could not be greater. British companies have deserted politics, and the Conservative Party in particular, en masse since the last election. About 100 leading companies have severed links with the Tories altogether. The total contributed by FT-SE 100 companies has fallen from a high of \$1.4 million in 1991 to \$760,000 last year, according to Pensions and Investments Research Consultants, the research group.

Of the leading British donors in the US, only two, Tate & Lyle and Hanson, are currently making UK donations, totalling just \$125,000. They have spent \$3.35 million in the US. Allied Domecq, which last made a donation in 1994, said it no longer gave money in the

UK because it felt it was largely irrelevant because of its status as primarily an international company. But Hiram, Allied's US subsidiary, has contributed more than \$50,000 to this election campaign.

BAT was more specific: "We feel that donations are not as integral a part of the UK system as they are in the US," explained Mr Pridoux.

The exodus of British companies from political funding can be understood as the American experience in reverse. Companies no longer feel the need to provide money to keep up with their rivals and, given the current controversy surrounding party funding in this country, are often only too pleased to withdraw from the firing line. Martin Sutton, of Glaxo, which recently announced it was ending political contributions, said: "One of the company's main considerations in stopping funding the Conservative Party was that none of the other pharmaceutical companies provided cash."

This has not, of course, ended all corporate involvement in the political system, as last week's revelations about Neil Hamilton show. In the US, lobbying is also part of the package. The tobacco industry has spent about \$15 million this year on trying to prevent anti-smoking legislation.

Tomkins, which owns Smith and Wesson, the gun manufacturer, has not felt the need to donate money in the US even though it is one of the few remaining loyal Conservative donors in the UK. The company enjoys the benefits of the powerful National Rifle Association, which lobbies for broadly the same aims. The NRA has contributed \$3.1 million in PAC and soft money, distributed among pro-gun candidates.

A few leading British companies, with important US subsidiaries, have resisted the temptation to become involved in US politics. Cadbury Schweppes adheres strictly to a non-participating philosophy and the PAC at Dr Pepper, its drinks offshoot, is now dormant in spite of heavy spending by rivals such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi. The jury, however, is still out on whether a course of non-intervention is a wise approach in the dollar-charged world of US politics.

# Key candidates reap their reward



Thompson: popular

Jesse Helms, the combative veteran senator for North Carolina, is the most popular candidate with British companies in the current elections. Senator Helms, who, as chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, helped to pass the Burton-Helms act, was awarded a total of \$26,000 from five different UK companies.

Glaxo Wellcome and BAT Industries both made the maximum permissible donation of \$10,000, which covered both the primaries and the election itself. Senator Helms has been a strong supporter of the tobacco industry, with one out of ten jobs in North Carolina dependent on the industry. Glaxo's US subsidiary is also based in the state.

Another senatorial candidate in North Carolina to receive a contribution from Glaxo is Charles Sanders. Mr Sanders also happens to be a former chairman and chief executive officer of Glaxo in the US. Mr Sanders attracted support for the democratic nomination from Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham, but ultimately he lost in the primaries.

Fred Thompson, who became senator for Tennessee after Al Gore moved to the vice-presidency, is the next most popular representative, receiving a total of \$24,000 from eight different companies. Senator Thompson sits on the Senate foreign relations and governmental affairs committees. Brown and Williamson is based in the state, another major tobacco region.

Mich McConnell, senator for Kentucky, received \$23,600 from 11 different companies. Senator McConnell sits on the environment and public works committee and attracted support from Peabody, the coal-mining subsidiary of Hanson (soon to be part of Eastern group), BP and Shell.

Other popular candidates include Alfonse D'Amato, senator for New York and chairman of the banking committee, who secured \$16,750 from eight different companies. Senator D'Amato has also been leading the Whitewater investigation into

the Clintons' financial affairs and is chairman of Bob Dole's re-election committee.

The most supported member of the House of Representatives is Thomas DeLay, representative for Texas, who has likened the US Environment Protection Agency to the Gestapo. Congressman DeLay, who received \$16,500 from nine different companies, serves as Republican chief whip.

Thomas Bliley, chairman of the House of Representatives commerce committee, was awarded \$12,000 from seven companies. The commerce committee wields tremendous influence over tobacco-related legislation, and Congressman Bliley has been the top recipient of PAC money from tobacco companies over the past decade. Newt Gingrich, Republican house leader, received \$11,000 from eight companies.

The most popular Democratic candidate is Max Baucus, senator for Montana, who received \$11,500 from five companies. He sits on the environment and public works committee and has consistently opposed a petrol tax rise.



Helms: strong backing

# The business cycle takes a holiday

The trend is your friend? Yes, if you are an investor. Those who follow the bull equity market continue to make serious money almost anywhere outside Asia (where our lending-like fund managers go on losing large sums). But for economists it is a different story. In the real world, the trend is a Jack-o'-lantern, appearing anywhere except where you expect it.

The US economy is booming? It suddenly weakens. Commodity prices up? No, down. Sterling the sick man of Europe? At the moment, it's about the strongest currency in the world. No wonder computer models, still revered in Threadneedle Street, produce such poor results. A

mathematician would have no difficulty in defining what is happening to economic statistics: they are obeying the law of random numbers. This dictates that any pattern you may detect in a series of numbers will be invalidated by the next numbers that come up. However, to define is not to explain.

We may observe that patterns that used to be reliable are suddenly a jumble, but we may still wonder why. That question must be left to the old-fashioned economist — not a forecaster, but an analyst. His explanation would have to start by looking for a cause, or causes. It might go something like this.

The two big features of the 1990s which would have star-

ted any forecaster ten years ago are the worldwide decline in inflation, and part, at least, of its cause, the almost worldwide fashion for fiscal reticence. The decline in inflation has robbed commercial companies of a once reliable source of cash flow, and made them take an obsessive interest in controlling costs, usually at the expense of their employees: less inflation, less job security, less cost push and more cautious spending. Meanwhile governments have struggled to cut their deficits. Many, since they seem wholly ignorant of

macro-economics, have failed. What nearly all have 'achieved' is a large switch in spending from investment and services to welfare support; and now they are struggling to cut that. So tax and spending policies have generally had a dampening effect on our spirits, and on activity. Central banks, thanks to the once single-handed efforts of Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, are trying to offset this fiscal drag; but most of them are still doing too little, too late. The sluggish world of the '90s, in short, is pretty much what finance ministers



Anthony Harris

have chosen to make it. But if the world is so constrained, why has it not drifted into outright depression? There are two visible props: investors' hopes and Japanese despair. Massive money creation by the Bank of Japan, trying to refloat its waterlogged economy, has fuelled monetary growth everywhere; and now the Japanese investor, disillusioned with the Tokyo market, has started to export large private funds. Plentiful liquidity and lowish interest rates add up to a bull market; and though some economists still regard the stock market as a side-show, the economic importance of this bull run is hard to overstate. Little else has

sustained private confidence; and at that, bull sentiment has only been really effective in the US and to some extent here.

You may find yourself trying to pick holes in this analysis. I have tried myself, because the thought that the world economy depends on the bull market is frightening enough, and dependence on Japanese policy fashion rather worse.

Indeed, the major lesson of the last decade may be simply this: an economy driven by private decisions about spending, saving and real investment is much stabler than one with the benefit of official management. A thought to frighten policy wonks; but not you.



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may not be a donkey.  
But one who does not,  
is surely an ass."*

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**FILM**  
Biding his time for one more 'grand cinematic adventure', Francis Ford Coppola is game for a laugh

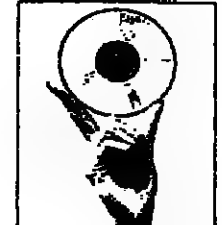


**THEATRE**  
At the King's Head a new legal comedy. Accommodating Eva, offers a jolly night out

# THE TIMES ARTS



**TICKETS**  
Bernard Haitink conducting the Covent Garden Ring: see our Theatre Club for unbeatable offers



**TOMORROW**  
Best classical recordings of the year: The Gramophone magazine unveils its annual awards

The much-mellowed Francis Ford Coppola tells Martyn Palmer about his surprising new film, *Jack*

## More grapes, less wrath

When a director of the ground-breaking stature of Francis Ford Coppola, a five-times Oscar winner, agreed to direct *Jack*, a mainstream, rather sentimental comedy drama, the highbrow eyebrows were bound to twitch a little. After all, this is the first time that Coppola has been back behind the lens since 1991's *Dracula*, and *Jack*, a Disney vehicle for Robin Williams, would not seem the kind of fare that would tempt the maker of *The Godfather* trilogy, *The Conversation* and *Apocalypse Now*.

The 57-year-old director admits that these days the family wine business, centred on his home in California's Napa Valley, is of equal importance to making movies. As Williams, a close friend and neighbour for 15 years, puts it: "Francis wants to make movies and make wine. He is in a very mellow frame of mind right now and I think this movie is part of it."

Also, taking this job as a "professional director" enables Coppola to plough his fee into his company, American Zoetrope, to fund at least one more grand cinematic adventure. "I support my family with the wine business and if I can make money from the film business I use it to subsidise my personal work," he says. "It's a bit like the artist, Christo. Part of his art is to wrap up buildings and another part of it is to figure out how to raise money to do it. I feel a bit like that."

These days, Coppola sees himself as something of an outsider whose "personal" work is somewhat outside the commercial mainstream and will not get a green light from a big studio unless it is sufficiently bankrolled in the first place. "I would very much like to make a personal film on the scale of an *Apocalypse Now*, from an original script and an original story that I have written," he says. "But that type of movie is especially difficult to do today. The movies being made now tend to be remakes of old movies or ones that are similar to films that have already been made."

"In my life I've only ever made two films that were totally from my original stories — *The Conversation* and *The Rain People* — and I would very much like to do that again."

Coppola is reluctant to say what the subject-matter of this original work might be, but Fred Fuchs, a close friend and president of American Zoetrope, says that there are "three or four scripts" that Coppola has been working on. He has also had meetings with the *Godfather* author Mario Puzo, and the possibility of a *Godfather Part IV* has not been discounted.



The money Francis Ford Coppola got for making *Jack* will help to finance another of his "personal" films

It's not how long you live, it's how well and completely you live

Coppola seems to have rediscovered his enthusiasm for directing, after suggesting in an interview two years ago that he might never make another film. His financial prudence is explained by the near bankruptcy of Zoetrope in the early 1980s, which left him with debts of around \$40 million. Coppola obviously feels that things have to be different now. And, even if he did do *Jack* just for the money, he strongly defends it.

"I've always tried different styles," he says. "Peggy Sue Got Married was a kind of sweet fable, and in a way *Jack* is like that. Even though *Jack* didn't originate with me I tried to make the story with as much feeling and love as I could."

Jack (Williams) is a ten-year-old boy born with a fictional condition that ages him four years for every one. At ten he is a lonely adult-child trapped at home, who years for the company of other children. His parents finally concede that he should be allowed to go to school and mix with his own age group. When he does, of course, he is something of a freak, an outsider who has to fight to be accepted. The themes of loneliness, the desire to fit in and the precariousness of life are ones that Coppola says he can readily relate to.

"When I was nine I was confined to a room for over a year with polio, and because polio is a child's illness they kept every other kid away from me," he says. "I remember being pinned to this bed and being hungry, longing for friends and company. When I read *Jack* I was moved because that was precisely his problem: there are no children in his life."

In typical Coppola fashion, the director made Williams immerse himself in the role by spending three weeks with the real ten-year-olds in the cast before filming even started. "We just ran around up at his place," says Williams. "It was great, because you assimilate behaviour without even knowing it."

For Coppola the next directing job may be another at the request of a big studio, with a script he likes and a fee that he can put towards that "personal project". In the meantime, he is happy enough tending grapes in the Napa Valley. "I've always had a childlike attitude to things, which is to be in the moment and not to waste such a precious thing as life worrying about what is going to happen. In a way, that's the theme of *Jack*. All of our lives are racing by — his faster than most of us — and it's not how long you live, it's how well you live and how completely you live."

Jack is reviewed by Geoff Brown tomorrow and opens on Friday

## Out of the blues, onto the rack

JON SPENCER is one of the great American eccentrics, the latest in a line of lunatic performers that stretches from Jonathan Richman, Joey Ramone and Lux Interior of the Cramps all the way back to the original hillbilly hellraiser, Jerry Lee Lewis. Together with his spiky-haired guitarist Judah Bauer and drummer Russell Simins — the singer and guitarist from New York has released a string of albums since 1990 which have done for the blues what mad cow disease did for the image of British cattle farming.

He was at it again on Sunday night at the Astoria. Positioned amid a huddle of equipment — small enough to fit in a Transit van with room to spare — in acres of empty stage, the three musicians launched without preamble into an exhilarating blast of maximum-energy, garage-band rock'n'roll. The sound was abysmal: a booming, burping cacophony that buried all but the sturdiest of Spencer's shrieks in an undifferentiated hail of ricocheting drum beats and straining guitar noise. But the spirit of the show was sensational.

Now that rock'n'roll has settled into a comfortable mid-

**POP**  
The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion  
Astoria, WCI

dle age and "the blues" usually means the tutored elegance of performers such as Eric Clapton and Robert Cray, it takes a sacrilegious mind-set and an effort of will to capture something of the visceral thrill that the music conveyed in its original form. Whether sprinting their way through the one-minute punk-rock opus *Identify* or negotiating the funkier groove of *Firefly Child*, Spencer and his cohorts were more than up to the task.

After staggering his way through a ludicrous take-off of James Brown, Spencer led the band through a series of "encores" culminating with a raucous *Chicken Dog* and a magnificently wired version of *Dag*, with Bauer on harmonica coaxing a noise like a freight train from hell. Proof at last that there is more to this blues lark than "Woke up this morning..."

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Massive respect

BRISTOL collective Massive Attack have just launched their own record label, Melanolic, and with admirable generosity of spirit their first release casts an overdue spotlight on one of reggae's inspirational forces. Horace Andy is a veteran of Jamaica's Studio One stable and sound, and while his records have long had an underground following, his contribution to the genre has been somewhat shouted down by louder, less substantial voices.

After appearing on Massive Attack's album, Andy now becomes Melanolic's first, proud product via his career anthology *Skyarking*.

At Subterania, DJ David Rodigan was encouraging anticipation for Andy's appearance with a set of feisty reggae. Shoveled into this Ladbroke Grove cellar were both old fans and new believers, working on the assumption that a testimonial from Massive Attack is ample recommendation.

Nor were they disappointed, as the bespectacled maestro, now 45, shimmied through a

**REGGAE**  
Horace Andy  
Subterania, W10

set of joyful, universal vibes. As on the album compilation, Andy made frequent raids into his Jamaican goodie-bag for Studio One classics and later pieces such as *Girl I Love You* and *Money Money*, fine examples of his pure, sweet and spiritual reggae.

But as he chuckled and beamed, modestly enjoying this resurgence of appreciation, the man they call "Sleepy" was keen to acknowledge his new sponsors. He stepped outside his traditional style for *One Love*, the darker piece on which he sang on Massive Attack's *Blue Lines* album. And when it came to his own *Spicing Glass* it was the updated version from their 1994 album *Protection* that he performed. Respect was truly flowing in all directions.

PAUL SEXTON

### THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

- LONDON**  
Royal Opera House  
Oct 16, 19  
● A DOUBLE helping of Wagner sees *Siegfried* (Oct 16) and *Götterdämmerung* (Oct 19) come to Covent Garden in Richard Jones's compelling productions. Bernard Haitink conducts Anne Evans (Oct 16) and Deborah Polaski (Oct 19) as Brünnhilde and Siegfried. Tickets from £12.50. Tel 0171-304 4000, quoting reference "STTC".
- Haymarket Theatre  
October 11  
● THE actor, pop star and actor again Jason Donovan returns to the West End in Emlyn Williams's classic thriller *Night Must Fall*, alongside Rosamund Leach. Club members can buy two £24 tickets for the opening night. Tel 0171-930 8800.
- BRIGHTON**  
Sallis Beany Theatre  
University of Brighton  
Oct 25-26 Nov 2-3  
● TWO £5 tickets for the price of one to two world premieres at Visions 96, the festival of international animated theatre. Improbable Theatre's *70 Hill Lane* (Oct 25-26) investigates strange poltergeist activity, while Le Clair des Songs's *Flying Stars* (Nov 2-3) is a puppet show with music. Tel 01273 709709.
- DUNDEE**  
Dundee Rep Theatre  
Oct 15-16  
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £12 to £15) to Method & Madness's stunning adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece, *Ghosts*. Tel 0151-709 4776.
- COVENTRY**  
Belgrade Theatre  
Oct 17-19  
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £9 to £15) for Oliver Goldsmith's boisterous comedy of (bad) manners, *She Stoops to Conquer*. Tel 01203 553055.

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EVA KANEKI's lawyer arrives hot off the golf links knowing little about the case. He is unsure whether he is representing plaintiff or defendant. Sylvia Freedman (whose musical *The Meteoric Rise and Dramatic Demise of Edmund Kean* is being revived next year at Watford) is a solicitor herself, so the opening moments of this play crackle with shrewdly observed humour. From here on, however, a plot fired only by a feeble reversal-of-fortune story begins to splutter and backfire. Jolly though it is, it never regains that initial momentum.

Dillie Keane makes an unlikely Albanian peasant-woman refugee evicted from her Hackney flat by slum landlord Angela Harper (excellent Kate O'Sullivan) and her smug barrister Paul. On her release from Holloway prison the doughty Eva craftily

## From Albania to perfidious Albion

inveigles her way into Paul's household, thanks to his sentimentally liberal and guilt-ridden wife Joanne. Sleazy hack Keagan, who is trying to expose Angela's unscrupulous business dealings, quickly turns his attentions to Eva and transforms her into a Margherita Prakatian-style media star within a matter of weeks.

Director Tom Dulack goes for high comedy at every available opportunity. Keane plays Eva like a music-hall comedy turn, which is a good

Zog style" burnt cabbage leaves. The main humour of this comes with the comparison to the King's Head own cuisine.

But the really preposterous part is that, having set up this stock comic character, director and author try to convert Eva in the concluding scenes into a sensitive and intelligent woman with principles and finer feelings. The danger of schmalz here is high, though Keane gives us enough of a wink and a nod to reassure us that this is only light entertainment anyway, so bear with it.

The reappearance of Oliver Bradshaw's marvellously ancient, Bard-quoting Judge offers some comfort ("Lyria — Ah yes! I played Viola when I was at prep school. They still remember it.") and conveniently provides a happy ending for all.

CLARE BAYLEY

### GREAT BRITISH HOPES

#### Rising stars in the arts firmament

#### CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON

Profession: Dancer and choreographer  
Age: 23  
Is it true he started life as a country boy? "Well, not quite. I am from Yeovil, so I'm not quite a country lad, and I certainly wasn't born on a farm."

Early impressions: WheelDON studied ballet as a child — "the only boy among a thousand girls" — and then ended up at the Royal Ballet School. He won the Prix de Lausanne — a gold medal, no less — in 1991 at the age of 17.

Career path: Joined the Royal Ballet in 1991, where he spent two seasons in the corps de ballet. In 1993, he left to join New York City



City Ballet completely by accident; I was on holiday in New York and I went to take a class with them — but they thought I was auditioning. When they offered me a job

things started ticking over in my brain. And I fell in love with New York."

What was the attraction of the Big Apple? "I was having a good time finding out about life. In London, life had been unadventurous: I grew up quickly in New York, where there was nobody to take care of me. And I was given piles of work when I got there. And I discovered that dancing could be vibrant and exciting."

How does it feel coming back here to rehearse his work at Covent Garden? "I love coming back and working with everyone at Covent Garden. Part of me is still here. I wind down when I come to London. It's very comfortable being back here: the pace is calmer and slower, although I am extremely frustrated that at 2am I can't get anything I want."

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■ OPERA 1

Superb singing, a witty staging and urgent passion from the pit: the Covent Garden *Siegfried* takes off



■ OPERA 2

... while in Amsterdam a new production of Shostakovich's *The Nose* plays up the macabre

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ OPERA 3

... and in the Festival Hall Sir Georg Solti assembles a formidable cast for *Don Giovanni*



■ MUSIC

James MacMillan draws inspiration from *Good Friday* for a new cello concerto premiered by Rostropovich

OPERA: Haitink plots an unerring course through Wagner; *The Nose* loses the scent; Mozart in concert

# The light fantastic trips by All aboard for the nasal lark

After the somewhat unsparring emotional rigour of *Die Walküre*, it was a relief to turn to what is traditionally known as the scherzo movement of the *Ring* cycle. As if to remind us that even clichés sometimes have to be true, Haitink was at his spryest. The first two acts sped by even more briskly (I think) than when the production was new 18 months ago, yet with no hint of haste or incoherence. Haitink was always alive to the wit of the music and its conversational pace, and the tenderness of Siegfried musing on his par-

Siegfried  
Covent Garden

entage in the forest was all the more affecting for not being glutted by lingering over.

The pace was maintained even in the mighty first scene of the third act, which had thrilling forward impetus without any loss of dramatic weight. It was only with the awakening of Brünnhilde that Haitink started to relax the pace: the love duet was a warm, spacious, lyrical effusion full of hope for a future free of the clutter of the past so unceremoniously bundled into tatty old wardrobes in Richard Jones's production.

That future seemed even more hopeful, given that Siegfried no longer dons Wotan's surcoat's smock, one of the very few changes in a production that was anyway the most successful of the four first time round. A new disposition of Nigel Lowery's plywood set means that Brünnhilde (or an extra) no longer has to stand motionless throughout the first 40 minutes of the act—a good change. Oh, and the house fly has gone. I rather miss it.



Behind the mask: Siegfried Jerusalem brings his "beautifully bronzed" tone to Siegfried and Deborah Polaski is "on gleaming form" as Brünnhilde

Wit, yes—the forging of the sword as a demonstration in the Art of Coarse Cookery remains a brilliant comic episode—but Haitink also catches the macabre strain of the first two acts, centred mainly on Graham Clark's mesmerising Mime. This grim drag queen, forever twirling the skirts of

Siegfried's frock down to cover his knees, fixing the audience with a glitter-eyed stare inviting condescension, and never more terrifying than when wielding Mrs Bates's knife, is a chilling study in pure malevolence, wonderfully sung.

And when this Siegfried goes into the woods to meet the dragon, he finds instead yet another Cruel Mother in the wardrobe, this time Matthias Hölle in the same frock but with bigger breasts and a pumpkin head to be sliced off and then sliced up—simply terrifying. Hölle is one of four fine newcomers, with Rosemary Joshua's crystal-clear Woodward, Catherine Wyn-Rogers's sonorous Erda,

and Deborah Polaski in gleaming form as Brünnhilde. John Tomlinson was in towering voice in the third act: he could perhaps afford to relax the volume in the conversational passages earlier. But the hero of the evening was the near-eponymous Siegfried Jerusalem. He knows both the role and his own voice inside

out, knows when to relax the pressure, when to sing out, when (in the richest possible sense) to "cheat". His beautifully bronzed tone and intensely musical phrasing gave as much pleasure as his laddish portrayal. I have never heard him sing the role better.

RODNEY MILNES

SINCE his departure from ENO, David Pountney's productions have become increasingly zany, and his new staging of Shostakovich's *The Nose* for the Netherlands Opera in Amsterdam continues the pattern.

*The Nose*, Shostakovich's first opera (1928) and one of his most "modern" works, belongs to that peculiarly Russian genre of overstated, knockabout theatre. It is based on Gogol's tale of a petty official, Kovalyov, who wakes one morning to find his nose missing, and the outrageous episodes that follow cock a snook in every direction. Much of Pountney's version has a dazzling theatricality true to the spirit of the piece but his scenario drifts far from the composer's, and to weakening effect.

Without the dark Russian satire that Gogol and Shostakovich intended, the work loses its bite, and the more Pountney broadens the story, the less black the humour becomes. By the time the protagonist is restored to health, every member of the crowd from the Ministry of Silly Walks that fills the stage is nasally challenged. But the more straightforward updating work: the Police Commissioner riding a Harley Davidson, or the stagecoach station as an airport.

It is Pountney's own interpolations that confuse the already confusing drama: a queen who abandons her speech in the Kazan Cathedral scene to make love to the 15th Nose, and a round-table discussion between "critics" puzzled by the proceedings, one of



John Daniecki and Udo Holdorf

The Nose  
Amsterdam

whom had a point when he pronounced the show "a load of Eurotrash".

But the piece is about absurdity, and it is hard sometimes not to capitulate to the sheer ridiculousness of the action on Stefanos Lazaridis's stage. There is nothing in this enormously expensive staging that does not move, and scenes flow into one another with a cinematic ease.

All the singers enter into the spirit of the production, and the main parts are without exception well done. John Daniecki sings and acts smoothly as the rock'n'roll figure who struts out of the giant Nose, and David Wilson-Johnson is a compelling Kovalyov. Thanks to excellent playing from the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra under Hartmut Haenchen, Shostakovich's score emerges as more than a soundtrack.

JOHN ALLISON

## More a fighter than a lover

GEORG SOLT'S return to *Don Giovanni* began in Paris last spring when he reopened the Palais Garnier with a concert performance of Mozart's opera. After other European stops and with several changes in casting he brought it to the Festival Hall over the weekend for a pair of evenings recorded by Decca. This is now Solti's favoured way with opera: no whims of stage directors to contend with and a substantial run with the singers before the sound engineers move in.

It worked very well with *Così fan tutte*. But for *Don Giovanni* Solti abandoned his new, frisky, quicksilver mood and opted for a grander and more solemn approach. After a severe overture, he and the London Philharmonic Orchestra were almost subdued, not an adjective normally associated with Solti. But the game plan was clear: Solti wanted to reserve a few thunderbolts for the end of

Don Giovanni  
Festival Hall

Act I and then hold back most of them for Giovanni's final descent into hell.

His willing and very expert accomplice was Bryn Terfel in the title role. Terfel, now slimmer down but still a powerful figure, plays Giovanni as an antagonist, happiest throwing down challenges to women and society before taking on God. Terfel snarled out the Champagne Aria in high-speed defiance, the first number in the evening to set the hall buzzing. Less successful was Giovanni the seasoned seducer. Both *La ci darem* and the Serenade began too loudly and lacked the silken touch.

The latter was well within the command of Renée Fleming's Anna. She was slightly below her remarkable Mozartian

best in Act I, but Fleming is the mistress of the big number and this she showed in *Non mi dir*, which brought the most eloquent and exquisitely phrased singing of the evening.

There were some rounded performances in the less demanding parts. Monica Groop, especially, and Roberto Scaltriti impressed as Zerlina and Masetto. Herbert Lippert was a pleasantly lightweight Ottavio. Mario Loperi thundered to effect as the Commendatore. But two roles gave problems.

Michèle Pertusa, a commanding Giovanni in Paris, was switched to Leporello. Earthiness is not within his extensive musical vocabulary. Nor was Ann Murray at ease with Elvira. She was the odd one out in a much younger cast. There were delectable moments, but the voice hardened under pressure.

JOHN HIGGINS

CONCERTS: A MacMillan premiere in London; a fine start in Carlisle

## Notes about Good Friday

want to hear more than one of the new concertos.

In the event, MacMillan's piece proved more rewarding than the Colin Matthews concerto last month. It is also more substantial than MacMillan's cor anglais concerto, to which it is "related": they form the first panels of a triptych inspired by the Maundy Thursday to Easter

LSO/Davis  
Barbican

day work, and its first movement, *The Mockery*, sets the tone with its ferocious opening. To the calm that follows, Rostropovich brought tender cello playing, but soon he and the orchestra were off into a Shostakovichian dance of sardonic humour.

Within the clear structure

of this 40-minute work, scored for large orchestra, MacMillan allows himself a freedom that he has sometimes lacked. The second movement (*The Reproaches*) never sounds obvious, though the material is simple, drawn from plainsong and a hymn-tune known as *Dunblane Cathedral*.

In the final movement, obsessive, tightly-written cello motifs are stilled as a chorale is hammered out, and the cello slides up to its highest register to hover and dissolve into nothingness. This directly-speaking piece is one of MacMillan's finest scores.

JOHN ALLISON

## Upbeat beginning for conductor

JEAN-BERNARD POMMIER and the Northern Sinfonia in full lyrical flow is a rare experience. Recently appointed artistic director, after working as guest conductor and soloist for 20 years, Pommier has clearly won not only the faith and the commitment of his fellow musicians but also their affection. No one hearing him conduct Tchaikovsky's *Serenade* for Strings at the beginning of the Sinfonia's season in Carlisle could doubt that. In the detached chords at the start of the slow introduction

there was a little indication about exactly when the bow should be applied. But once the pulse was established in the *Allegro moderato*, agreement was complete and the orchestra was playing with the spontaneity and technical security that only the Sinfonia among British ensembles can offer in such a winning combination.

In a work such as Frank Martin's *Concerto for Seven Wind Instruments*, which is

Northern  
Sinfonia  
Carlisle

more difficult to characterise stylistically, that kind of freedom is correspondingly harder to achieve, particularly if the virtuoso scoring threatens to overwhelm the instrumentalist. But it was worth the occasional anxiety to hear such a fresh revival of a neglected item. Besides, Rachmaninov's *Vocalise*, with the associate leader Martin Hughes taking the vocal line, was reassuring.

GERALD LARNER

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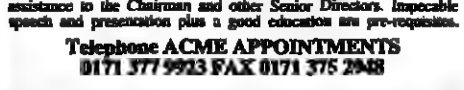
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## PROPERTIES

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FOOTBALL: COACH OUTLINES HIS VISION FOR ENGLAND BEFORE WEMBLEY MEETING WITH POLAND

# Hoddle aiming to create the right blend

By DAVID MILLER

THERE is just a chance, a slim one, that Glenn Hoddle may produce the kind of England team about which supporters daydream. Few former highly creative players make outstanding managers. Hoddle could be one of those exceptions.

Great players such as Di Stefano, Kubala and Blanchflower tend to have been too idealistic as coaches. Among the successful managers who were previously exceptional players have been Franz Beckenbauer and Kenny Dalglish, though the latter has never operated at national level. Successful managers tend to be pragmatic midfield players or defenders — Nicholson, Busby, Ramsey, Revie, Zagallo (Brazil), Schön (Germany) — who know how a team or a match hang together.

The only truly idealistic manager to have won an international trophy in modern times was Michel Hidalgo, with France in 1984, though he had the advantage of a group of fine players. Hoddle, revealing yesterday that he was "talked into

which he inherited from Terry Venables and which we are likely to see tonight.

"The game has evolved into 11 v 11, very different," he said, "all players are operating in a tactical way. Brazil are an example. Parreira [their coach] realised that to win the World Cup they had to change, they could not just select the best players, as in the past, and send them out to play."

Since his days as an international player when he too often under-performed or was ineffectively used, depending on your point of view, Hoddle has clearly learnt a lot. He has, of course, the expedient streak, hence his retention of Pearce. As Dave Mackay used to protest mockingly about Blanchflower: "I have to win the ball before he can use it."

Hoddle emphasises that five technical players in midfield "is not going to work". The inclusion of Ince, a terrier, is fundamental. Yet everything Hoddle is saying suggests he sees the team as being a blend of those who colloquially can make the ball talk, and those who will help them to do so. This is encouraging.

The pragmatism, however, is further evident in his admission that qualifying ties are essentially different from a final tournament: that the former, at intervals of months, necessitate, in the vernacular, getting a result while a month-long tournament allows the possibility to develop a more collective style.

He considers that the England team cannot be considered his team for another six or seven matches and that what the team eventually becomes will depend on results in the next few matches.

Yes, Hoddle said yesterday, it was a help to have been a skilful player. "If you can explain things, show them, they are respectful," he said, "as long as you are telling them the right things, the reasons. At this level, it's about their responding."

The intriguing aspect of his reign will be how far he will remain faithful to the basic tenet of the English game: big, strong central defenders such as Pallister and muscular centre forwards such as Shearer. For a century, such players have defined the English game. Matthews, Finney, Charlton and Hoddle, these have been the exceptions. How will the new manager build his team within this framework: he will no doubt remember that occasion when England played a ball-playing midfield trio, Ball-Bell-Peters, and were thumped by Netzer and Germany in 1972. As Hoddle said, there is no such thing as a perfect game.



Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, with John Collins, his new captain, preparing for today's game against Estonia. Report, page 48

## Poles apart keep the football faith alive

Nick Szczepanik, born in Britain of a Polish father and British mother, looks forward to a revival of ancestral loyalties at Wembley

Ryszard Siemaszko, the Polish-born chairman of the Association of Polish Sports Clubs in Great Britain, has no doubts where his allegiance lies. "I support England at cricket; I wanted England to win in Euro '96," he said, "but, if Poland had been playing, it would have been different."

Tonight, of course, Poland are playing. They meet England at Wembley in the qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup finals and the extensive Polish community in Britain, first generation, second generation and beyond, will be well represented. At the Polish community centre in Derby on Saturday, Siemaszko, who has lived most of his life in Britain, was bombarded with ticket inquiries as soon as he walked through the door. A 50-seat coach will go to Wembley, along with others from all over the East Midlands and most other areas of Britain. For Poles, the golden years

were the Seventies and early Eighties, with players such as Boniek, Lato and Deyna, they had sides to compare to the best, twice claiming third place in World Cup finals. "We ran three coaches for the 1974 game," Siemaszko recalled, when Poland last escaped defeat at Wembley. England memorably failing to achieve the victory they needed to beat Poland to the finals, largely thanks to the heroics of Tomaszewski, the goalkeeper.

The only other famous Polish goalkeeper is Karol Wojtyla (better known as Pope John Paul II) and supporters are not optimistic about tomorrow night, blaming lack of investment in sport since the end of Communist Government in 1990 for the national team's decline — defeats at the hands of Israel

and Japan would have been inconceivable a decade or so ago. However, enthusiasm, particularly among teenagers attending a cultural Saturday school, was undiminished. "I'm looking forward to it," Marek Niewiarowski, who was born in Britain of Polish parents (and supports Derby County and Legia Warsaw) said. Who would he support at Wembley? "Half and half... well, three quarters and a quarter. If England win, that's OK, but if Poland win, I'll be jumping and screaming. I think England will win, by two goals, but I'll have a good time no matter what."

Siemaszko agreed. "They'll do well to keep it to two. If they perform well, play good football, we're all happy." Although the number of times that England and Poland have been drawn together

in qualifying groups tends to make Wembley a regular fixture, many Anglo-Poles, whatever their club allegiance, also travel to see Poland's UEFA or European Cup representatives on British grounds whenever possible. "I was over in Blackburn to see Legia, with a car-load. They played very well," Siemaszko said.

"In the car park at Ewood Park, I saw groups of Poles who had travelled from Poland in cars and obviously made my way across to say hello. Out came the vodka, as you can imagine."

As well as ties with the old country, football provides links between the diverse Polish communities here; 25 teams, whose players must prove Polish blood, play in an annual tournament. This year, a traditionally strong

team from Mansfield was beaten in the June final by the Varsovia club of London, who are able to get Poland's worst results out of their system on occasions. "We recently beat a team of Japanese businessmen 5-2, which was a sort of revenge for the national team," the manager, Edmund Ogla, said.

Whether any Poles will be celebrating in London after tomorrow's game, rather than looking for a team of England supporters to play, is doubtful, although for most of them — OK, most of us — the chance to cheer our ancestral team in the land of our birth or residence is more important than the result, which is probably just as well.

And when, at the draw for the next European championship, Poland's name comes out in the same group as England's, as it inevitably will, you can be sure that there will be a large group of supporters almost as pleased as the England manager of the day.

## Hamilton's header rekindles Scottish ambitions

Estonia Under-21 ..... 0  
Scotland Under-21 ..... 1

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SCOTLAND claimed their first win in the European under-21 championship when a Jim Hamilton goal was enough to defeat Estonia 1-0 in Tallinn yesterday. Hamilton's header, in the 31st minute, was Scotland's first goal in three matches.

Paul Ritchie headed a free kick from Miller over the crossbar before Scotland finally ended their scoring drought in the tournament. They forced a corner on the left and, when Ritchie curled over a cross, Hamilton had space to head home.

Hamilton, the Dundee striker, went close to scoring his — and Scotland's — second goal three minutes after the break. He met a Bonar cross with his head but Sergei Pareiko, the Estonia goalkeeper, brilliantly tipped the ball over the crossbar.

Hamilton created another chance for McCulloch, then departed after 51 minutes with a shoulder injury. Pareiko made another save from Gilles as Scotland searched for a second goal to make sure of victory. Brian Hetherston, of St Mirren, won his first cap as a substitute for Gilles, his club-mate, but Scotland had to survive a couple of late scares.

Victory came at a cost. The captain, Charlie Miller, of Rangers, received his second booking of the tournament early on in the game and will miss the match against Sweden next month through suspension.

Hamilton believes the result has revived Scotland's hopes of qualifying for the final stages. "I still think we can go through, but the Sweden match is a big one now," he said.

Tommy Craig, the coach, was satisfied to see his players claim their first win, but was not pleased with the performance. "I'm not happy, but grateful to get the three points," Craig said. "We did not do enough in my view and the job is taking longer than I thought. I just hope we can raise our game against Sweden and Austria, as it is a Scottish trait to play better against better sides."

ESTONIA UNDER-21 (4-4-2): Pareiko — Kallonen (subs: Nommik, Zaman), Arve, Saarek, Pihel, Leedo, Kallaste, Kallaste (subs: Vahamäe, 46), Urtik, Alas (subs: Cui, 66).  
SCOTLAND UNDER-21 (4-3-3): C. Miller — S. McCulloch, D. Hetherston, D. Brown, D. Dods — P. Ritchie, G. Gilles, G. Gilles (subs: B. Hetherston, 78), J. Hamilton (subs: M. Anthony, 51), C. Miller (subs: Bonar, 30), L. McCulloch.  
Referee: L. Garner (Denmark)

## Irish play name game

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

THE surroundings may be familiar, but Ireland will nevertheless step into the unknown at Lansdowne Road tonight. It will be the first time Mick McCarthy's new team have played at home in a competitive match and, for good measure, the opponents in their World Cup qualifying group eight fixture are unknown quantities, with even their full title — the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia — a source of confusion.

Nothing about the break-up of the former Yugoslavia was easy and the full title of the southern Yugoslav state is the product of Greek intransigence. With two thirds of historic Macedonia inside Greek borders, Greece insisted that the country could not be called simply Macedonia, closing borders and cutting trade to stress the point. Last week, every Irish newspaper that used the shorthand version received phonecalls or letters from the Greek Embassy correcting their errors.

certainly weaker than Croatia or Yugoslavia (now comprising just Serbia and Montenegro), but draws with Denmark and Belgium in the qualifying competition for Euro '96 suggest some quality and the new coach, Dusan Hadzic, can call on players performing in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Spain and Denmark, as well as closer to home in Belgrade and Split.

They arrived in Dublin on Monday without their best-known player, Darko Pančov, once, in his heyday, with Red Star Belgrade, one of the best strikers in the world, but out of favour with his latest club, FC Sion, in Switzerland. They

are also without their other outstanding talent, Mirko Stokovski, of Real Oviedo, a left-sided midfielder player, but with Ilija Najdoski, who captained Red Star to their 1991 European Cup win, and Partizan Belgrade's talented young attacker, Gorgi Hristov, they are not to be taken lightly.

The Irish, whose passion is undimmed yesterday's tight training session is any guide, are unlikely to do that. For them, the loss of Ray Houghton in midfield means that Alan McLoughlin is likely to assume the central anchor role, alongside Jason McAteer, who was picked as a wing back in Liechtenstein in August (when the Irish won 5-0) and then fell ill. Up front, Keith O'Neill, the Norwich left winger, and John Aldridge are likely to win the vote ahead of Tony Casarino.

It is unlikely that Gullit, even if he makes a successful comeback tomorrow, will risk playing in the FA Carling Premiership match away to

Leicester City on Saturday. However, the chances of Newton, Phelan and Peacock, after lengthy lay-offs, are more realistic.

Newton has not played since breaking a leg in the match against West Ham United in February. Phelan has been plagued by hamstring and Achilles tendon problems and recently spent a week at the Lillieshall rehabilitation centre.

"I'm hoping it's all behind me now," Phelan said. "It was very hard at Lillieshall, they really put me through it, but I've done a lot of running and I'm as good as ready."

Frank Sinclair, Dmitri Kharine and Jakob Kjeldbjerg, Chelsea's other long-term casualties, are still recuperating. John Spencer, their striker, returned home early yesterday from Scotland's two-match World Cup trip to the Baltic with a hamstring strain.

## Gullit manages first steps to recovery

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

RUUD GULLIT, the Chelsea player-manager, hopes to make his first tentative appearance of the season for his club in a specially-arranged match against Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge tomorrow. Gullit, who underwent knee surgery two months ago, has been restricted to managerial duties only since August.

He will also use the game to improve the fitness of Eddie Newton, Terry Phelan and Gavin Peacock, none of whom have appeared in the first-team this season, either. "Every day, I feel better," Gullit said, "but the leg muscles still need strengthening because I have been out for so long. I've never set any targets for a return, but I hope it is soon."

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## Neal move angers Cardiff

By DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER City are to be reported to the Football League and the Football Association for an alleged illegal approach to Phil Neal, their new assistant manager. Samesh Kumar, chairman of Cardiff City, where Neal was manager, revealed yesterday that he would be making an official complaint.

Kumar's grievance with City is over compensation. He will ask that the Nationwide League first division club be ordered to pay upwards of £100,000 to cover the remaining three years that Neal had to serve on his contract. Neal joined Steve Coppell, the new Manchester City manager, at Maine Road yesterday.

"I have heard nothing from Manchester City, and I think that is absolutely scandalous," Kumar said. "I sent a fax to City asking for clarification, but we have heard nothing. We were not told that they even wanted our manager. As far as I'm concerned, Phil Neal still has the best part of a three-and-a-half year contract

left: people are simply looking after number one, and we are being left in the lurch."

Lee indicated yesterday that he is prepared to talk about compensation, but it is still an inauspicious start for Neal, the man who was portrayed in an unflattering light in a television documentary about Graham Taylor, the former England manager, who employed him as an international coach.

Coppell, however, has defended his decision to employ Neal. "If you ask people at Coventry what they think, they say he did an excellent job given the resources he had," Coppell said.

Tomas Brodin is planning to fly back to England for a meeting with George Graham, the Leeds United manager, after being given an ultimatum by the club. The Sweden international, 26, had defied demands from injury-hit Leeds to rejoin them following the completion of a one-month loan period with FC Zurich, of Switzerland.

Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, has again overlooked Eric Cantona, the inspirational Manchester United captain, for tonight's friendly with Turkey, despite having three of his regular strikers sidelined through injury.

Adidas, the sportswear firm, said yesterday it had secured the rights to be an official sponsor of the 1998 World Cup and also acquired global licensing rights for the event. The finals are being staged in France.

Steve Nicol, the former Liverpool defender, is set to join Steve McMahon, his old Anfield team-mate, as player-coach at Swindon, of the first division. Nicol, 34, at present registered as a player with the FA Carling Premiership club Sheffield Wednesday, has failed to gain a regular first team place at Hillsborough since last season.

Norwich City have agreed a £200,000 fee with Bristol Rovers to sell Jamie Cureton, their Bristol-born striker, back to his home-town club.

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Oliver Holt concludes his series on memorable Formula One duels

# Fifteen seconds that decided a season



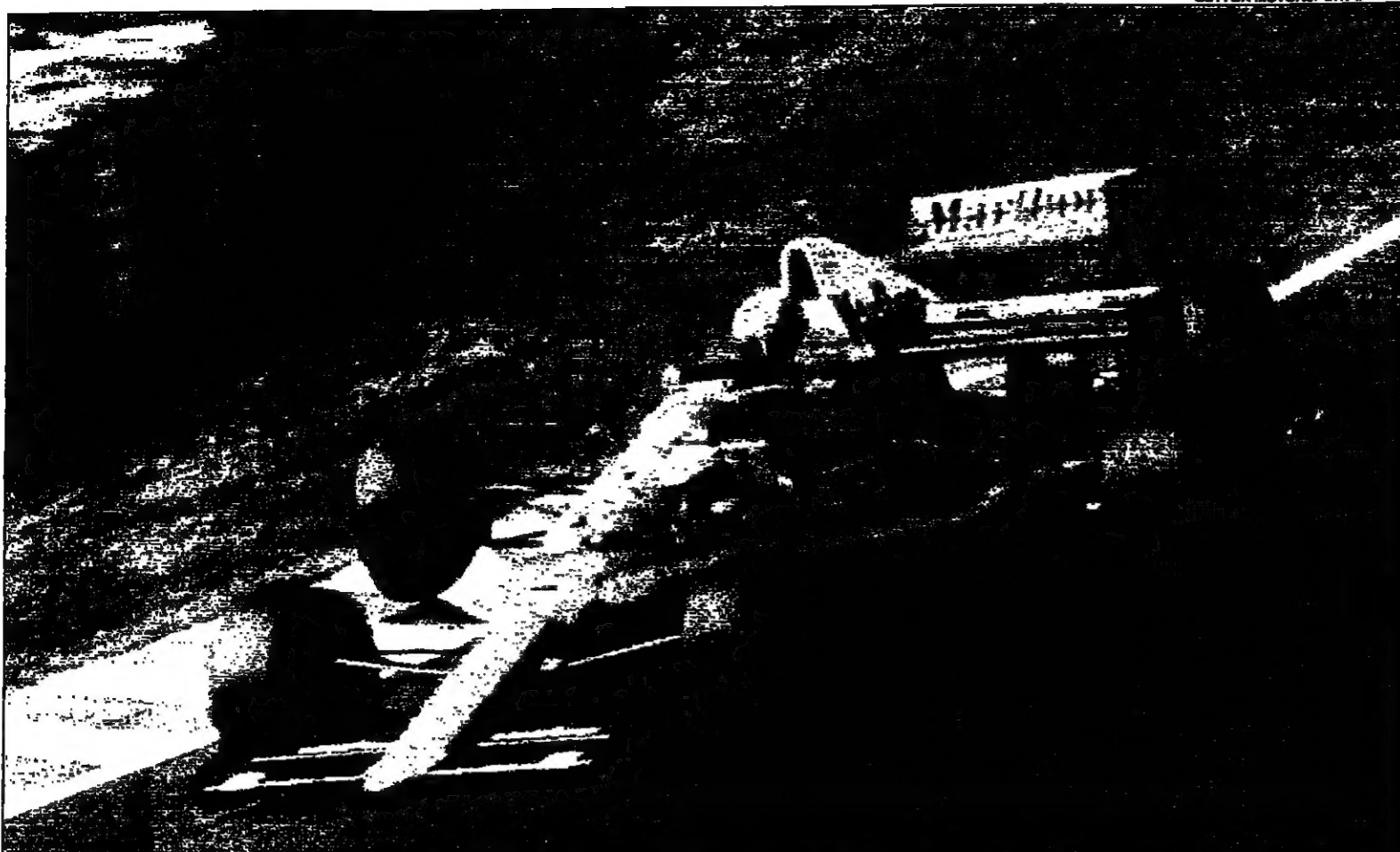
As Damon Hill sits on the grid in his Williams-Renault before the start of the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka on Sunday, his stomach churning and his nerves jangling, he will stare straight ahead to the first corner. His mind will be on the task ahead, on Jacques Villeneuve, the only man who can deprive him of the title. But, at the edge of his thoughts, there will be a place for the wide tract of gravel at the end of the straight, the place where the most bitterly-fought championship of all was won and lost.

Six years ago, Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna, recognised as the greatest drivers of their era and already among the most decorated, arrived at the circuit, in the midst of an uninspiring industrial belt near the city of Nagoya, locked in the latter stages of another acrimonious duel, not just for that year's Formula One world driver's championship, but for the accolade of being the greatest driver of all.

They already had, as American chat-show hosts are fond of saying, a history. The previous year, at the same venue, Prost had rather unconvincingly "shut the door" on Senna, then his McLaren team-mate, barging across him as the Brazilian tried to snatch the lead by overtaking on the inside as they approached the chicane on the 44th lap.

Both cars came to a halt, locked together, but while Prost took off his gloves, hauled himself out of the cockpit and walked away, Senna managed to restart with the help of a push from some marshals and cut across the rest of the chicane, both illegal actions.

He went on to win the race but was disqualified for his transgressions and became involved in a protracted dispute with Fisa, the sport's governing body. The incident made Prost world champion



Senna, top, and Prost collide at the first corner in the 1990 Japanese Grand Prix, ensuring that the Brazilian took the championship

for the third time but the acrimony between him and Senna forced the Frenchman into a move to Ferrari at the end of the season.

The next year, though, it was Senna who held the points advantage over Prost when the struggle for the title reached Suzuka. There was still the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide to come but, if Prost did not win in Japan, he would lose any chance of becoming Ferrari's first world champion for 11 years and Senna would clinch the title.

The excitement of some of the greatest championship struggles, perhaps, has rested in their protracted nature, in the fact that the winner has not been known until the last lap of the last race. Somehow, there was something about the breakdown in the relationship between Prost and Senna that made that scenario unlikely.

In the end, the showdown lasted just 15 seconds. Senna started from pole position, unhappy because it was on the right-hand side of the track

which was dirtier than the left. His requests for pole to be changed to the other side were refused. Prost, alongside him on the front row, made the better start and led the race towards that first corner, 200 metres away.

Within 30 metres, Prost was a car's length ahead with Senna tucked in behind. Prost kept slightly to the left, rather than moving over to block his rival, so that he could hurdle through the corner in fifth gear. But as the corner approached and Prost began to turn in, Senna kept on coming on the inside and the space between them shrank and shrank.

When Prost moved fully on to the racing line, now travelling at more than 140mph, the front wheels of Senna's McLaren were suddenly level with his. For an instant, they were locked together. Then, in unison, they spun wildly like a pair of disorientated ballerinas, and hurtled off the track into that gravel trap, lost in a cloud of dust.

Neither was hurt, but the blame was laid firmly at Senna's door. Perversely, it served only to increase the mystery of his legend, the sense that this was a man prepared to die for the pursuit of the championship, not a rational, calculating man like Prost, who weighed up all the risks. Prost was incensed.

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## 'Senna kept on coming and the space shrank and shrank'

"What he did is disgusting," the Frenchman said. "I am not ready to fight against irresponsible people who are not afraid to die. Anyone who understands motor racing does not have to ask what happened."

"He did it on purpose because he saw that I had a good start, that my car was better and that he had no

chance to win. So he just pushed me out."

"What he did is more than unsporting; it is disgusting. I have no problems about losing the world championship. I have lost many, but not in this way. He has completely destroyed everything. I hope everyone can see he was not honest. I never expected what he did. I thought he was one of the human race."

"I thought he was hard but fair on the track. Not like this. For him it is much more important to win the world championship than it is for me."

It is the only thing that he has in his life. He is completely screwed up."

The debate, of course, ran and ran. There were many who heaped criticism on Senna, some who said Prost had been naive in leaving him any sort of opportunity to dive up the inside. It is still, probably, the most famous, most controversial collision in the history

of the sport and, a year after it had happened, even at the moment he won his third world title, it was still on Senna's mind. He said the accident had been caused by the decision of Jean-Marie Balestre, then the president of Fisa, not to change pole position to the left.

Recounting his thought process before the crash, Senna said: "If, at the start, because I am in the wrong position, Prost gets the jump, and beats me off the line, at the first corner I'll go for it. And he had better not turn in, because he's not going to make it. It just happened, I guess. It was the result of a bad decision, influenced by Balestre. I contributed to it, but it was not my responsibility."

In the circumstances, perhaps, it may be the challenger who looks his eyes on to the gravel trap alongside the first corner this Sunday. Hill is not the ruthless man Senna was, but Villeneuve would do well to heed the lessons of 1990 all the same.

## SQUASH

### Horner's rapid victory leads British advance

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA

SUZANNE HORNER, the British champion, enjoyed a trouble-free passage into the second round of the women's world championship here yesterday when she defeated Jehangir Grewal, the India No 1, in straight games.

Horner, 33, from Wakefield, described her 9-5, 9-3, 9-3 victory, completed in 23 minutes, as "scrappy", but said: "A win is a win." Today she meets Rachael Grinham, the tough former world junior champion from Toowoomba, Australia, who has matured noticeably this year.

Former world junior champions are thick on the ground here. The 1991 version, Cassandra Jackman, from Norfolk, had a straightforward 9-3, 9-2, 9-5 win over Janine Hickey, of Australia, and will face Toni Weeks, another Australian, today, while Sue Wright, of Kent, will come up against Jade Wilson, the

present world junior champion.

Other Britons to make progress yesterday were Tracey Shenton, of Staffordshire, the national junior champion, Rebecca Macree, of Essex, Fiona Geaves, of Gloucester, and Linda Charman, of Sussex.

All their efforts might be frustrated, however, by yet another former world junior titleholder, Sarah Fitzgerald, of Australia. The 1987 age-group champion was in devastating form yesterday, defeating Choi Yoon Chow, of Malaysia, for the loss of just two points.

Peter Marshall, of Nottingham, the double-handed player who was ranked No 2 in the world before suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, is to return to SRA National League competition in the autumn with Broxbourne, the Hertfordshire club.

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

### VENDEAN

(c) An inhabitant of La Vendée, especially one who took part in the insurrection of 1793 against the Republic. A toponym from La Vendée, the name of a maritime department in western France. "The unhappy Vendéens were defeated with fearful loss."

### WORRICOW

(b) A scarecrow or hobgoblin. Also, transferred, a person of frightful or unprepossessing appearance. From worry + cow as if "a goblin apt to worry". Scott: "They do say there's a sort of worricows and lang-nebbit things about the land."

### VORAX

(b) Voracious, ravenous, the Latin vorax devouring. Stewart, *Chronicles of Scotland, 1535*: "This Alexander/ Of Badenoch was callit all his dais/ The vorax wolf."

### ZAMZUMMIM

(b) From *Deuteronomy*, the name of "a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims." "Such numbers of arm'd enemies, so many Nimrods, Zamzummins, adversaries to our opinions."

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# How to make a conspiracy out of a mystery

What is a missing British trawler, a secretive sect of mystical Christians and a U2 spy-plane have in common? Blown up, I know either. I'm afraid. But I am fully confident of one thing. Somewhere, a television researcher is working on it. What a night it was for conspiracies. Three subjects, three programmes, three mysteries — but all derived from the first rule of conspiracy theory: things are always more complicated than they seem. Ask Fox Mulder if you don't believe me.

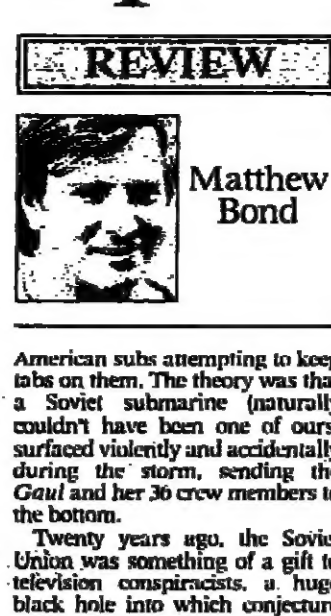
But goodness, keeping up with them all can be exhausting. They always start so intriguingly, so beguilingly... as indeed *Network First: The Riddle of the Gaul* (ITV) did last night. "In February 1974, at the height of an Arctic gale, a British trawler called the *Gaul* disappeared..." Oh yes, you think. I remember that — awful business. You move a little closer.

That's when they hit you with the twist. Apparently, the *Gaul* was a modern and well-designed trawler, purpose-built to survive the worst of the Barents Sea could throw at it. It couldn't possibly have sunk. At that point, an image of the *Titanic* passed before me, an unfortunate lateral leap as it brought me — and no doubt others — perilously close to the conclusion that the producers arrived at much later. If no icebergs, what other large, solid objects do we know that lurk beneath the ocean?

One hour and an awful lot of snow and submarines later, I emerged, my head reeling from theories, counter-theories and counter-counter-theories that Norman Fenton, a veteran when it comes to *Gaul* conspiracies, and his co-producer Diarmuid Jeffreys had so persuasively laid before us. At times, it seemed a miracle that any cod ever got back to Hull at all, given the lack of real fishing going

on off the north coast of Norway. British trawlers apparently spent much of their time spying on the Soviet Northern Fleet. The Norwegian fisherman who found the only bit of wreckage from the *Gaul*... a suspiciously clean lifebelt — admitted that he worked for Norwegian intelligence. And when we finally met the former head of Russian naval intelligence, he nodded, tapped his nose and admitted that they, too, had their "fishing boats".

I was actually not important whether or not the *Gaul* was spying or simply fishing when she shouldn't. If you accept the producers' version of what happened next, the trawler positioned herself due north of Murmansk, which in submarine terms is pretty much the equivalent of parking in the fast lane of the M6, with Soviet subs stealing out of home waters and British and



Matthew Bond

American subs attempting to keep tabs on them. The theory was that a Soviet submarine (naturally couldn't have been one of ours) surfaced violently and accidentally during the storm, sending the *Gaul* and her 30 crew members to the bottom.

Twenty years ago, the Soviet Union was something of a gift to television conspiracists, a huge black hole into which conjecture

disappeared — conveniently never to be refuted. Twenty years on it is a gift again, but this time for a different reason. You can't keep them off the television. *Network First* had access right up to the former head of intelligence of the Soviet Northern Fleet, but Timecast: Baiting the Bear (BBC2) went better still.

Not only did it have the former head of Soviet air intelligence on hand to describe the day world war three almost broke out, it had Nikita Khrushchev's son to explain that his father was a much misunderstood man, who spent half his career as Soviet leader pretending that the Kremlin had far more military resources than it actually had and the other half actually having them. But I may have got my bomber gaps and missile gaps mixed up, so please don't take my word for it.

This was the story of General Curtis E. LeMay, whose career of

astounding aggression began with the fire-bombing of Tokyo and ended shortly after what was for him a very disappointing Cuban missile crisis. His mission statement: "My job is to kill the enemy and when I've killed enough of them, they'll stop fighting."

Together with his side-kick and eventual successor at Strategic Air Command, General Thomas Power, LeMay was a man who thought that nuclear war was so winnable he set out to start one. Quietly, without telling President Eisenhower, he started sending U2 spyplanes over the Soviet Union in the hope of provoking a response. Project Control it was called, but Project Out of Control might have been more accurate.

Paul Lashmar's film contained an impressive amount of first-hand testimony but took too long to get to the extraordinary goings-

on of the late 1950s and early 1960s, by which time it was difficult to tell who was the madder, LeMay or Power. Thank goodness, somebody invented rock and roll to take our minds off it all.

But what of secretive mystic Christians, you ask? Well despatching through Witness: Death of the Solar Temple (Channel 4) I am not sure I know. David Cohen and David Carr-Jones did a good job of casting doubt on the conventional view that the deaths of 65 sect members in four separate incidents was mass suicide, but a poor job of coming up with a good reason why anybody might want to murder them instead. They concluded that in traditional conspiracy style: "What really happened to the Solar Temple may always remain a mystery." So much for the truth being out there, Scully.

● Lynne Truss appears tomorrow

## REVIEW

### CHOICE

#### Decisive Weapons: The Bayonet

BBC2, 8.00pm

The bayonet is not so much a decisive weapon (even its contribution to the Royalist victory at Culloden is disputed) as an enduring symbol of the British soldier in the 1600s, and named after the town of Bayonne in France, it was still being used in the Falklands War. And it remains a central part of army training, just the thing to inspire soldiers to become aggressive and hate the enemy. The film suggests that the mere threat of having cold steel plunged into the chest was enough to send rival armies into retreat, and the careful verdict of experts is that the bayonet's fame rests more on promise than achievement. One of the contributors, discussing the bayonet's role in the Peninsular War, is Bernard Cornwell. He is author of the *Sherlock* novels. On television, *Sherlock* is played by Sean Bean, and who is narrating this series? Why, Sean Bean.

#### Two Fat Ladies

BBC2, 9.30pm

In Mevagissey harbour in Cornwall, two large women are putting on lifejackets before venturing out to sea in search of crabs and lobsters. "I feel like a Dalek," says one. "I hate to tell you, but I'm a Dalek," says the other. You look like one. The Dalek is Jennifer Paterson, loud, excitable and with a voice like Peggy Mount. Her companion is the slow shrinking Clarissa Dickson Wright. They are television's new cookery double act, touring the land in motorcycle and sidecar in search of local dishes. As the series suggests, neither is much interested in slimming. "None of this nonsense about yoghurt instead of cream," booms Jennifer. As she puts the finishing touch to a dish of scallops and leeks. The plumpies are such a good turn that you can easily forget what they are cooking. Fear not, it is all on Ceefax.

#### Beck

BBC1, 9.30pm

The missing persons drama continues to take place in ill-lit gloom and we get no nearer to discovering the eponymous heroine's first name. If the series takes off perhaps its creator will treat us to a cryptic *Morse*-style revelation. Meanwhile, Amanda Radman's Beck is just Beck, even in moments of intimacy. Clumsy, giggling the affections of two men, and stuffing herself with junk food, she is what psychologists might call a bit of a sad case. But she is good at the job, even if her office is so dark it is a wonder she can see as far as the telephone. Tonight Beck's main client is an elderly woman (Freda Dowie), newly freed from the tyranny of a husband, who is looking for a find that nice Italian prisoner of war she fell in love with. If the solution falls too easily into Beck's lap, there is a twist at the end.

#### Great Railway Journeys

BBC2, 9.30pm

Boarding the Eurostar to Paris, the poet and novelist Ben Okri sets out on the first leg of his trip from London to Arcadia. The ambiguity at the heart of the film is that Arcadia is both a real place, in Greece, and a symbolic one, a lost paradise of rural tranquillity. The double meaning enables Okri to blend the actual journey with the spiritual one. He can enjoy Paris, Venice and London, but he is on a quest, and he is determined to find his Arcadia and he does so in unlikely guises. Peter Waymark

#### Redoubtable cooking duo

BBC2, 8.00pm

Two Fat Ladies: Fish and Shellfish (Ceefax) (s) (3118)

9.00 Changing Rooms. With two days and a budget of £500, designers Laura and Graham Wynne transform a round kitchen in an antiques shop and a living room (Ceefax) (s) (6557)

9.30 Great Railway Journeys: London to Arcadia (Ceefax) (s) (66825)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (573193)

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (Ceefax) (s) (411460)

11.40 Selfish: The Puffy Shirt. Jerry finds himself in an awkward situation when he promises to wear a Puffy Shirt to the latest creation on the Today Show (Ceefax) (s) (336915)

12.30am-6.00 Learning Zone

### WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

6.25pm Wales Tonight (656825)

7.00-7.30 The Really Helpful Programme (2489)

1.25-1.55 Cuisine (28415703)

1.55 Home and Away (14619335)

2.25 Vanessa (27870828)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (6577606)

3.10-3.40 Home and Away (8377828)

6.00 Westcountry Live (60170)

7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (2489)

12.55 Home and Away (3269083)

1.25 Cuisine (28415703)

1.55 A Country Practice (44464248)

2.20 Vanessa (27871557)

2.50-3.20 Our House (9365712)

3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (8377828)

6.25 Central News and Weather (656828)

7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (2489)

12.45am Bushell on the Box (54774)

2.15 Dear Nick (186949)

3.15 In Focus (3891671)

4.00 Sound Bites (44290584)

4.05 Late & Loud (4645836)

5.00 Jobfinder (8881403)

5.20 Asian Eye (5416010)

### MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Cuisine (3269083)

1.25 Home and Away (28415703)

1.55 A Country Practice (44464248)

2.20 Vanessa (27871557)

2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (9365712)

3.10-3.40 Home and Away (8377828)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - FreeScreen (100248)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (422)

6.30 Ridgiders (642)

7.00-7.30 Wheel of Fortune (2489)

5.00am FreeScreen (33774)

### SAC

Starts: 6.35 Sharkey and George (9185731)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (62625) 9.00 Here's One I Made Earlier (42286)

9.30 Schools: 9.30 Good Health 9.45 Book Box 10.00 Stage Two Science 10.15 Making Sense of Science 10.45 Breaking the Mould 11.07 Lost Animals 11.15 The Mix 11.30 Sat-A-Tat 11.45 First Edition (26731)

12.00 Wild West Country (Teletext) (s) (22422)

12.30pm Backstage (Teletext) (s) (50793) 1.00 Sesame Street (8001731) 1.55 Low Season (44495118)

2.20 FILM: The Gentle Sex (b/w, 1943) with Rosamund King and Lili Palmer. A drama following the fortunes of seven women through the war years. Directed by Leslie Howard (968267)

4.00 Fifteen to One (915) 4.30 Countdown (199) 5.00 Ricki Lake (2892731) 5.45 Traveling Treks (282880)

6.00 Party of Five (Teletext) (s) (84267)

6.50 Fresh Pop (960977)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (8373)

7.00am Sharkey and George (9185731)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (62625) 9.00 Here's One I Made Earlier (42286) 9.30 Yagellon: Good Health (9185731) 9.45 Book Box (1911800) 10.00 Stage Two Science (4838947) 10.15 Making Sense of Science (575731) 10.45 Breaking the Mould (8133828) 11.07 Lost Animals (6577880) 11.15 The Mix (9681373) 11.30 Sat-A-Tat (3921450) 11.50 Archyville (9644986) 12.00 Wild West Country (22422) 12.30pm Backstage (50793) 1.00 Sesame Street (8001731) 1.55 Low Season (44495118) 2.20 FILM: Against the Wind (31424915) 3.15 The Monte Williams Show (9817196) 4.00 Fifteen to One (915) 4.30 Countdown (199) 5.00 Ricki Lake (2892731) 5.45 Traveling Treks (282880) 6.00 Party of Five (Teletext) (s) (84267) 6.50 Fresh Pop (960977) 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (8373)

12.55pm-1.30 Four Nations: Continental Passions (6418942) 4.00 Yagellon (4644107)

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